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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
When will the Legislature finally pass FY2011 budget?

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to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Best Way

The White House on Thursday defended granting waivers to some employers from a key provision of the new health care law.

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Ready For Takeoff

President Benigno Aquino III announced that he had given the government back to the people and that backed by a stronger economy, he would provide even more jobs and a better future.

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Nobel Winner

Mario Vargas Llosa, the newest winner of the Nobel Prize in literature, has never found much honor in boundaries.

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"There are no winners, only losers if the Senate were to continue the battle between the two houses. The people are the losers in this battle and to further delay the passage of the budget would mean prolonging the people's agony."

— Senate President Paul Manglona

Days since government shutdown: 9

Senate gives in to 16-hour cut

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), second from left, speaks to members of the House minority led by Rep. Diego Benavente (R-Saipan), standing left, prior to the start of an emergency session yesterday. From left, Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), Tenorio, Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), Benavente, Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), and Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan). Hours later, the Senate passed the House's latest budget bill with a 16-hour cut per pay period.

»But passed budget bill restricts governor's hiring, reprogramming

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate gave in last night to the House of Representatives' proposed 16-hour work cuts per pay period, ending the tumultuous budget deadlock between the two houses that resulted in a partial CNMI government shutdown and temporary joblessness for over 1,000 employees since Oct. 1. **See SENATE on Page 4**

Younis elected Board of Regents chair

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents has a new chairperson after Maria Paz Younis was elected during the continuation of its regular meeting yesterday.

Younis

Younis replaced Janet H. King, whose term expired last month. Younis was also the former chairperson of the presidential search committee that completed its task last Thursday; following the submission of the Top 2 candidates for NMC's next president.

Chosen as board vice chairperson was Elaine Orilla from Rota, while regent Frank Rabauliman was voted as the board's treasurer.

NMC interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera was selected as the board's secretary.

The board is comprised of seven members—all appointed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to represent the three islands. They include Younis, Orilla, Rabauliman, Andrew Orsini, and Malua Peter.

Currently, two voting positions are vacant in the board, including the seats of Charles Cepeda, who resigned early this year, and that of King.

Other non-voting members of the board include Larry Lee, president of

See YOUNIS on Page 4

'Presence before federalization law not counted for naturalization'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A federal court judge has ruled that the federalization law does not provide that a lawful permanent resident's residence in the CNMI satisfies the presence or residency requirements for naturalization.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Philip M. Pro said the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (federalization law) does not provide that a lawful permanent resident's residence in the CNMI satisfies the presence or residency requirements for naturalization.

Pro discussed the residency issue in his ruling that favored federal officials

See PRESENCE on Page 4

Local

Fund warns lawmakers on serious impact of shutdown

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees chair Sixto Igisomar appealed to members of the Legislature last Thursday to pass a balanced budget to prevent serious consequences to the Fund and its members.

Igisomar, in his letter to Senate President Paul A. Manglona and Speaker Froilan Tenorio, said a prolonged government shutdown translates to over 1,000 government employees unable to return to work most of who are Defined Benefit members.

"The effect of these employees not working is detrimental and extremely harmful to the Fund as employee and employer contributions for each of them will not be remitted. The duration of the shutdown is uncertain and may translate to a significant reduction of revenues for the Fund," said Igisomar.

As serious as this problem is, Igisomar added that there is another serious and "egregious problem" that looms with a prolonged shutdown.

"Currently, there are over 1,000 government employees unable to return to work. The Group Health and Life Insurance administrator has been advised that all government employees unable to work during the shutdown period must pay 100 percent of their life and health insurance premiums if their respective employers are not able to pay for its share of premiums [premiums are split 50/50 by employer and employee]," said Igisomar, adding that at a time when employees are not getting paid anything, it will surely result in nonpayment of premiums.

Igisomar explained that in the event employees enrolled in the life and health insurance programs do not pay their premiums and the number of enrollees drop below the threshold percentage of the group, there is a possibility the health and life insurance carriers will cancel the policies.

Aetna is the Fund's health insurance carrier while IAC is the life insurance carrier.

"Because both policies are 'group' coverage non-performance by one part of the group will jeopardize coverage of the entire group," Igisomar said.

The Fund chairman pointed out that the Fund stands ready and willing to pay the portion for all retirees' life and health insurance premiums; however, the members' policy is at risk of cancellation due to the effects of a prolonged shutdown.

"We will continue to pray that a balanced budget is passed and our deserving government employees can once again return to work and provide financial support for their families," added Igisomar.

US DOE officials to visit schools, hear from parents and students

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Education for Elementary and Secondary Education, Dr. Carl Harris, will visit numerous schools on both Tinian and Saipan, while in the Northern Marianas next week.

Harris and Special Advisor Crystal Martinez will also spend time in conversation with parents, students, teachers, principals, and PSS and government officials, as well as with members of the community at large during the visit. The officials are here at the invitation of Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan.

Harris

"Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and members of his senior staff have embarked on a Learning and Listening Tour to hear directly from Americans all over the country what they think about our schools," Sablan explained.

"Every time I meet with Secretary Duncan I invite him to bring the tour to the Northern Marianas. So, I am very glad that we will now have this opportunity.

"Dr. Harris will be here to listen and learn about us. But he works in policy and strategic initiatives under the secretary. So this will also be a time for anyone interested in education to hear directly about this administration's vision and goals."

The Department of Education officials will begin their visit on Oct. 12 in introductory meetings with PSS and CNMI government officials, and with the press to talk about the purpose of the visit. Later, the visitors will get their first look at CNMI schools, going to Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School and Tanapag Elementary School on Saipan. Harris is himself a former teacher, principal, and school superintendent.

On Day 2 of the tour, Harris and Martinez will sit down for serious policy discussions with PSS leadership and school principals. This will be a time to hear in-depth from local educators about the most pressing issues facing schools in the Commonwealth and about their recommendations for the federal government's role in raising educational achievement here.

A forum with high school students at Saipan Southern High School later on Wednesday will focus on college readiness. One of the Obama administration's stated in goals is to return America to number one in the world in the number of college graduates.

On their last day in the CNMI, the officials travel to Tinian to visit Tinian Elementary School and Tinian Junior/Senior High School and meet with students and faculty there.

That evening, Oct. 14, at 6:30pm Dr. Harris and Ms. Martinez will attend a town hall hosted by Congressman Sablan and the Public School System. This will an opportunity to listen as Dr. Harris describes the Department of Education's vision for the future of American education. The floor will also be open for discussion, so the general public can share thoughts with the visiting officials. The town hall will be held at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall. ***(PR)***

ALL SMILES CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Recipients of Northern Marianas College Natural Resources Management Scholarship are all smiles as they pose with NMC interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera and other NMC staff. From left Daisy Propst, NMC Financial Aid Officer; Mark Flores, NRM Coordinator; John Bigalbal, representing Dan Paulo S. Bigalbal; Anthony Deleon Guerrero; Micheal Ogo, acting director of the NMC Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service program; Oscar Flores, representing Nathaniel Flores; Dave Attao, acting director of Community Programs and Services; Cabrera; Tom Pangelinan; Juan Iguel; Charlie Leon Guerrero; Bobbie Merfalen, dean of Academic Programs and Services; and Erik Basa.

Cancer advocates are celebrity baggers today

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Board members and officers of the Commonwealth Cancer Association will take part in the celebrity bagging in participating stores today.

Commonwealth Cancer Association program manager Tina Sablan said Alex Sablan and Maggie Camacho of CCA and John Tagabuel and Jocelyn Songsong of the Department of Public Health are among the participants in today's celebrity bagging.

The initial celebrity bagging will be conducted from 8am to noon at the Joeten Store in Susupe and 9am to 11am at the 99 Cents Store along Middle Road.

The celebrity bagging activity is part of the Breast Cancer Awareness Month celebration.

On Sept. 30, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores signed a proclamation designating October as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The proclamation stated that breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women nationally, exceeded only by lung cancer, and the chance of developing invasive cancer at some time in a woman's life is about one in eight.

Aside from celebrity bagging, other activities have been lined up in celebration of the Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

These include the Breast Cancer Awareness Walks on Wednesdays, educational booths, cooking demo, health screenings, and the Pinktober concert at the Hard Rock Café on Oct. 10.

MINA to distribute 260 seedlings for 350 Tree Planting Event

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance now has some 260 seedlings to be distributed to the community for the 350 Tree Planting Event.

MINA is a community-based, nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of the natural resources of the CNMI.

Executive director Sam Sablan said the Forestry Division donated 100 seedling and 100 vouchers worth $10 each that can be used to redeem a seedlings from Tropical Gardens, Bureau of Plant Industry, or Wireless Ridge nursery.

Other tree donors include the Fusco family who gave more than 30 flame tree seedlings and Capt. Carl and Lian Brachear who contributed $900 worth of yellow flame seedlings.

"Our goal is to distribute 350 trees or shrubs for planting," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The group will be distributing the seedlings to all those who will volunteer to plant the tree in their private yard or get together with friends to plant the tree in a public place.

"The purpose is to have enough trees on the island," she said.

Sablan said the seedlings are available for pickup today at their office next to the Naked Fish along Beach Road from noon to 5pm and on Sunday from 8am to noon.

The executive director said they are confident that they would reach the goal of 350 available seedlings be planted on Saipan.

"We're getting good responses. People have been calling and telling us that they're looking around for trees to be donated for the cause," said Sablan.

Sablan reminded the tree planting participants not to plant the seedlings under power lines and poles.

For more information, contact Sablan at 233-7333 or 483-6158.

CLUB 200 DONATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation and the Tan Holdings are again a major Red Cross donor. The NMI Red Cross received a $5,000 cash donation as well as $5,000 of in-kind products and services from the Tan Holdings. This generous combined donation of $10,000 provides resources for the NMI Chapter that will enable them to fulfill their humanitarian mission. From left, Century Insurance Co. president and CEO Dave Sablan, Tan Holdings senior vice president Eli Arago, NMI Red Cross honorary director Jean Sablan, NMI Red Cross executive director John Hirsh, and Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan.

OAG files three charges against ex-convict over DPS burglary

The Office of the Attorney General has filed three charges against an ex-convict who was arrested for allegedly burglarizing the Department of Public Safety's evidence room in Susupe and stealing seized marijuana.

Assistant Attorney General Russell Lorfing filed information that charged Christopher Ayuyu with burglary, possession or removal of government property, and criminal mischief.

Lorfing stated in the charging information that on Aug. 9, 2010 Ayuyu burglarized the DPS evidence room and stole confiscated marijuana "in the care and custody of law enforcement."

The prosecutor said Ayuyu broke the window cover and caused other physical damage to the evidence room.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo has imposed a bail of $2,000 cash, $3,000 property bond, and $5,000 unsecured bond, for the defendant's temporary release.

Ayuyu, who is represented by court-appointed counsel F. Matthew Smith, waived his right to have a preliminary hearing.

Police said the burglary was reported on Aug. 9, during which several boxes of dried marijuana trees and copper wires that were confiscated as evidence had been stolen.

Some of the boxes were recovered behind the evidence room.

A trail of marijuana was found leading to the northwestern portion of the parking lot of the Marianas Business Plaza (formerly Nauru Building) and also in the bushes along the road behind the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division in Susupe.

A concerned citizen's call led to the arrest of Ayuyu. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS Class of '90 meeting Monday

Marianas High School Class of 1990 will have an informal get-together and meeting on Monday, Oct. 11, at 6:30pm at Trunkon Da'ok pavilion at Kilili Beach Park. Bring your chairs, drinks, and ideas for the class' upcoming reunion. ***(PR)***

House budget proposal on Chamorro Talk Show Program

Today's Chamorro Talk Show program will feature House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ramon Basa and Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro.

The show airs from 10am to 10:30am on Magic 100.3 FM. The two lawmakers will discuss the House's version of the fiscal year 2011 budget bill and how it compares to the Senate's appropriations measure.

The program will be hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. Other featured reports are as follows: World report by former mayor Joseph S. Inos followed by special report from former representative Tina Sablan, Saipan correspondent and commentator.

The talkshow airs every Saturday between 9am and 11am. Additionally, the show features a special report from Rota with correspondent and commentator Thomas D. Mendiola and a report from Tinian by correspondent and radio commentator, former senator David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet broadcast is via www.magic100radio.com. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Francisco L. Kaipat, (collectively "Trustor"), on or about February 21, 2001 gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, formerly known as the Mariana Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, United States of America, ("VA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on February 26, 2001 under Document No. 01-268 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the VA.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 128 D 51, (formerly known as part of Lot 018 D 57), containing an area of 620 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 128 D 00 the original of which was recorded 07 DEC 99 as Document No. 99-2896 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default Trustee issued its Notice of Default on August 13, 2010. More than thirty days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2CMC §4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Trustee will, on **Monday, November 15, 2010 at 10:00 a.m., at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's office in Garapan, Saipan** under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. **The minimum bid offer shall be not less than $61,691.00 the total amount due under the VA loan.**

A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within 72 hours of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within 72 hours will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC. The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property of the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 8th day of October, 2010.

/S/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director, NMHC

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer"

Lawyer says Saluta has legal status to stay

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Noel Saluta has a legal status to remain in the CNMI because he has a pending labor case, among other reasons, according to attorney Robert H. Myers Jr. yesterday.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry about Saluta's immigration status, Myers said Saluta had a labor case and was awarded damages of about $2,275.

"As you know the court has ruled that a person has a due process right to remain in the CNMI while seeking a meaningful opportunity and hearing to recover such property entitlements issued from the administrative order," said Myers who served as counsel for Saluta in the labor case.

On Tuesday afternoon, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement brought to their office Saluta shortly after his family and friends were able to raise $525 cash bail for his criminal case.

Saluta

ICE, however, later released Saluta that same afternoon and was reunited with his wife and five young children at their rented house in Chalan Piao.

Chief Prosecutor Michael Ernest earlier asked Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo to raise the bail of Saluta as the defendant has no legal immigration status to remain in the CNMI. Labor reportedly claimed that the defendant has no pending case.

Saluta surrendered to police last Sept. 22 after learning that there is an arrest warrant for him in connection with an alleged assault incident that happened more than a year ago.

Myers yesterday said it can be recalled that Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman issued a general order about umbrella permits.

Myers said Wiseman's order required Labor's counsel to get a list of any lawyer's clients who had pending cases or claims.

He said he provided his list of clients to Labor's counsel, as well as copies to the Federal Ombudsman, in the Labor Secretary, Labor's Deanne Siemer and others.

"I even spoke face-to-face with Siemer specifically about Mr. Saluta's case, LC No. 07-187. I sent her a follow-up letter she requested so as to remind her to get Mr. Saluta his umbrella permit, which she assured me she'd get him one," the lawyer said.

Saluta recently attracted media attention after he and his family were forced to take shelter at the Susupe Regional Beach Park stage after being evicted from their rented house.

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October 2010 is CNMI Humanities Month

Please join the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities for the following community programs:

2010 CNMI Chautauqua Tour
The public is cordially invited to a free public performance featuring Jim Sayre as President Abraham Lincoln. Come and learn more about one of the most significant presidents in U.S. history and see how his humble Kentuckian roots influenced his rise to the presidency. Join us at the **American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theatre on Tuesday, October 19 at 6:00 p.m.**

American Classics Book Discussion on MCV Channel 60
The Council's book discussion program will be aired **every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday on MCV Channel 60 at 7 p.m.** throughout October. Renowned author and professor P.F. Kluge and members of our community share insights on classic American novels and discuss how these novels relate to life in our islands.

To Kill a Mockingbird
October 4, 5, and 6

Old Man and the Sea
October 11, 12, and 13

Huck Finn
October 18, 19, and 20

The Things They Carried
October 25, 26, and 27

Your Humanities Half-Hour
Catch our weekly radio show **every Sunday on Power 99 at 2 p.m.** Host Catherine Anderson presents humanities stories of interest to our community with interviews of and performances by local writers and scholars, students, special guests, and many more.

Community Grants Program
Apply for a grant to start a grassroots humanities program in your school, village, or community. Contact Council staff for more information.

Motheread
This family literacy program helps parents develop strong reading and storytelling skills and teaches parents to use literacy to foster strong child development and family empowerment. Contact the Council for more information on how to become involved in Motheread.

For more information or a full schedule of Humanities Month activities, please visit the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org or call 235-4785.

Cigarette tax increase on Dec. 13

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Smokers will find it costlier to puff cigarettes when the cigarette excise tax increases from $1.75 to $2 a pack effective Dec. 13, 2010.

The cigarette tax increase is one of the provisions of a 2002 law that requires a 25-cent increase eight years later, to help fund tobacco control programs.

Public Law 13-38 aims to restrict cigarette smoking in the CNMI where more than $2 million is spent annually to treat diseases related to tobacco and alcohol use.

Division of Customs Service Director Jesus C. Muna and Finance Secretary Robert A. Schrack jointly issued a public notice about the cigarette tax increase.

"By this notice, let it be known that effective Dec. 13, 2010, the cigarette excise tax rate will increase to $2 per 20 cigarettes or fractional equivalent thereof," Muna and Schrack said.

Under the law, 30 percent of the increase in cigarette tax, together with any penalties, forfeitures, interests, costs of suits and fines collected in connection with the same law, is deposited in a Tobacco Control Fund. The other 70 percent will go to the general fund.

This law is also in line with the Healthy People 2010 Initiative, which the CNMI has adopted, that identifies the objective to increase the national average of state and federal taxes on tobacco products to $2 by year 2010.

Wholesalers, distributors, and retailers will be increasing their prices as a result of the tax increase.

Marianas Pacific Distributors Inc. or Marpac, one of the distributors of cigarette products in the CNMI, said the tax hike "will definitely increase the cost of cigarettes."

"Now that we know the effective date of the increase, we will be able to inform our customers," a Marpac employee said when asked for comment.

Other major wholesalers and distributors of cigarette products include Pacific Trading Co. Ltd. and Western Sales Trading Co.

Eventually, smokers will feel the impact of such cigarette price hike.

"I am now thinking of quitting smoking because of the added cost," said a Garapan resident who smokes an average of two packs of cigarettes a week. She started smoking three years ago.

YOUNIS

From Page 1

the Faculty Senate; Clarice Arriola, president of the Staff Senate; and Antonio Tiples, the newly elected president of the Associated Students of NMC.

During Thursday's board meeting, the regents discussed the proposed amendments to its mission and policy as well as the ongoing work for accreditation.

The college has until Friday next week to justify why its accreditation should not be revoked.

It was in June this year when the Western Association of Schools and Colleges placed NMC in show-cause status after finding serious concerns on its eligibility requirements.

Younis, who was also the chairperson of the programs committee, said they are also reviewing all the reports and correspondences received to and from the commission.

She refused to further discuss these reviews citing "confidentiality" of the matter.

PRESENCE

From Page 1

who were sued by former Governor Benigno R. Fitial's special adviser for training Peter Chika Eche and Perry Po-sheung Lo for denying their naturalization petitions.

"The CNRA preserves the lawful permanent resident status of any such alien who resided in the CNMI before, on, or after enactment of the CNRA," the judge said.

Pro ruled that plaintiffs Eche and Lo have not lost their lawful permanent resident status by living in the CNMI.

"However, the CNRA limited the 'before, on, or after' language to this purpose only. Thus, by its plain terms, the CNRA did not provide that residency in the CNMI counts as continuous residency in the United States or physical presence in the United States for purposes of the naturalization requirements," he said.

The judge said CNRA does not refer to naturalization, it refers only to whether a lawful permanent resident loses his status as a lawful permanent resident by leaving the U.S.

Eche and Lo sued U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services District Director David Gulick, USCIS District 26 Field Office director Walter Haith, and USCIS Immigration officer Susan Teruya.

The plaintiffs argued that the District Office of the USCIS Saipan wrongfully adjudicated their case based on a wrong interpretation of CNRA.

The plaintiffs are lawful permanent residents of the U.S. Echie is a citizen of Nigeria and claimed he is a lawful resident of the U.S. since Sept. 4, 2004, based on an approved petition filed on his behalf by his U.S. citizen father.

Lo said he was born in China and immigrated to the U.S. on Feb. 9, 1989.

The plaintiffs filed the lawsuit to petition the court for a judicial hearing on their naturalization applications which the USCIS denied.

USCIS denied the applications based on its conclusion that plaintiffs' residence in the CNMI did not count for the physical presence requirement for a lawful permanent resident to naturalize, and constituted absence form the U.S. which disrupted the continuous residence requirement to naturalize.

The plaintiffs argued that CNRA provides that residence in the CNMI, before and after enactment, counts as residence in the U.S.

The plaintiffs contended that the language of section 705(c) of the CNRA, means that the residence in the CNMI satisfies the naturalization residency requirements before, on, or after the date of enactment of the CNRA.

The plaintiffs thus argued that because they lived in the CNMI for five years prior to their applications for naturalization, that residency counts as residency and presence in the U.S. for naturalization purposes.

Pro agreed that the plaintiffs' interpretation of CNRA is not without force because the naturalization requirements are based in part on the residency and physical presence of a lawful permanent resident in the U.S., and whether the lawful permanent resident has abandoned that status.

Pro said the CNRA provides that a lawful permanent resident is present in the U.S. by residing in the CNMI.

"Arguably, that same presence should satisfy the residency and physical presence requirements under the naturalization provisions," he said.

Nevertheless, Pro said he must reject plaintiffs' interpretation.

"Congress could have made it explicit that presence in the CNMI would count toward the residency and physical presence requirements for naturalization, but it did not do so," the judge said.

SENATE

From Page 1

The bill passed unanimously on an 8-0 vote. Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian) was absent because of an illness.

Senators, however, put restrictions on the House's proposal to give the governor a 100-percent reprogramming authority and on the hiring of personnel, including those in so-called critical positions. These will be allowed only on the condition that the House and the Senate have a joint approval.

Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) said the Senate did all it could to protect the people from the drastic 16-hour work reduction per pay period "but the House leadership would not compromise."

"The House leadership should understand that the Legislature is a separate and coequal branch of government and that it is the function of the Legislature to make laws and appropriate money," Manglona said last night.

House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said the House would not allow passage of a spending measure that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will veto later on because it's not a "balanced" budget.

Since Oct. 1, the government has been in partial shutdown because of a lack of budget passed and signed into law by the Sept. 30 deadline.

As a result, over 1,000 government employees have been unable to report to work. Until a budget is passed and signed, they will temporarily be out of jobs.

Lawmakers also would not have any salary paid to them until they pass a budget.

In addressing his fellow senators and the public last night, Manglona said the budget deadlock between the House and the Senate reminded him of the story of King Solomon and the two mothers claiming a baby.

"So tonight, as the King Solomon story demonstrates, the Senate will make the sacrifice and approve the House's demand of a 16 work hour reduction for the Commonwealth people. The Senate stands firm that a 16-hour cut is too drastic at this time. However, the Senate wants to end the people's immediate suffering by passing a budget so that the people can go back to work and resume their normal lives," Manglona said.

The House was reportedly trying to reconvene at 10pm or 11pm last night, to act on the Senate-amended budget bill.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), when asked for confirmation, said a late-night session would depend on what the Senate does on the budget bill.

If the House approves the Senate amendments to Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) and Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro's (Cov-Saipan) House Bill 17-123, then it goes to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for action.

People who trooped to the Legislature on Capital Hill last night were hoping that the lawmakers will be able to pass a budget and the governor to sign in during the weekend, so that the government will go back to normal operations on Tuesday. Monday is a holiday.

Long battle

Prior to last night's session, the Senate agreed to a 12-hour cut per pay period, hoping that the House will finally agree to it. But the House leadership stood firm on a 16-hour cut, saying this is what Fitial would sign into law.

The Senate was earlier pushing for only an eight-hour cut per pay period, saying that the House's 16-hour work reduction is "too drastic" to government employees, especially those earning $13,000 or less a year.

To cover the shortfall between an eight-hour cut and a 16-hour cut, the Senate had repeatedly asked the House to pass revenue-generating bills, among other things. It also asked the House to consider the eight-hour cut and after 90 days, review the government collections and see whether additional or less work cuts are warranted.

Manglona said the Senate offered solutions to the budget shortfall which the House ignored at every instance.

"There are no winners, only losers if the Senate were to continue the battle between the two houses. The people are the losers in this battle and to further delay the passage of the budget would mean prolonging the people's agony," Manglona said.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), chair of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, said if giving in to the House's proposal—no matter how painful it would be in the long run for government workers—is what it would take to stop the partial government shutdown, then they'd vote on the latest budget bill.

'Work does not end tonight'

Manglona said the work of the Legislature does not end Friday night.

He challenged House members to work day and night in the next 90 days to ensure there is enough revenue to pay for critical government expenses and address the Retirement Fund liabilities.

Manglona also called on the House to pass revenue generating measures to cover the budget shortfall, and control non-essential hiring.

He said the government can audit more departments and divisions to determine if they are overstaffed or necessary.

A $300,000 independent firm's desk audit confirmed that the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and the Department of Public Safety are overstaffed.

"Therefore, my dear colleagues, I respectfully ask for your support in passing this 16-hour reduction bill. I know your passion and commitment to our people, but we need to end this government shutdown for the good of the Commonwealth," he said before the voting on HB 17-123, House Draft 1 last night.

Fifth budget bill

At around 5:30pm yesterday, the House held an emergency session wherein Basa introduced HB 17-123 with almost the same provisions as the one it passed on Wednesday and amended by the Senate over work hour cuts.

HB 17-123 is the latest and fifth budget bill to be introduced in the 17th Legislature.

The House passed HB 17-123, HD1 on a 12-7 vote, and one was absent—Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan). Of the seven who voted "no" on the budget bill, six were Republicans led by minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) and one was independent, Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota).

Basa and Ogumoro's bill gives the governor a 100-percent reprogramming authority on funds appropriated not only to the Executive Branch but also funds given to all public corporations, agencies and entities of the CNMI government.

Prior to the House emergency session, the speaker spoke with minority members in the chamber.

"The speaker was trying to persuade us to vote 'yes' on the latest budget bill with 16-hour cuts," Benavente later told *Saipan Tribune*.

For the first time in weeks, the House's session lasted for no more than 30 minutes last night.

This was because there was no longer a debate on the budget bill.

"The minority had already said its reason for not voting on a 16-hour cut, and like I said during the session, I wanted the record to reflect my previous comments on this issue," Benavente added.

Camacho offered a floor amendment to delete one paragraph under the Judicial Branch's budget, and to reflect a total appropriation for this branch of $3,322,847. This amendment passed.

Tracy Guerrero of the CNMI Judiciary said this amendment gives the Judicial Branch more funding to perform its constitutional mandate.

Both the House and the Senate have already agreed on 13 unpaid holidays for Fiscal Year 2011, $85,000 in each lawmaker's annual discretionary fund, a leadership account of $138,000 each for the House and Senate, a $6.256 million budget each for Rota and Tinian, reinstatement of budget for the Commonwealth Zoning Board, and funding for Northern Marianas College and the Public School System.

Hours later, the Senate went into a leadership meeting and then into an emergency session to decide on the fate of the latest budget bill.

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- Leg Quarter #22 — $15.99 CS.
- Pork Babyribs #10 — $19.79 CS.
- Pork Spareribs #20 — $19.79 CS.
- OB Beer — $16.95 CS.
- Cass Beer — $16.95 CS.
- Saan Soju — $28.00 CS.
- Chum-Churum — $28.00 CS.
- Sashimi — $6.99 LB.
- Sam Da Soo Water 500 ML.
- Sam Da Soo Water 2 LITER
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- Ladies Blouse — NEW ARRIVAL — 2 for $18.00 1 for $9.99

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Opinion

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MEMBER
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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A Nobel's long gestation

There's a good chance that you know, or know someone who knows, one of the more than 4 million couples worldwide who have had a child through in-vitro fertilization. The procedure isn't considered a big deal these days, just another option for people who have had trouble conceiving.

In fact, it's hard to imagine the amazement, and in some quarters dismay, that greeted the 1978 birth of Louise Brown, the first test-tube (more accurately, petri-dish) baby, who recently celebrated the birth of her own child. Infertile couples suddenly saw new hope. The Roman Catholic Church and other religious groups criticized the new procedure as radical interference in God's design for procreation. Bioethicists wondered where it all would lead. If we could create human life outside the womb, they asked, what sort of new procedures might be developed as science leaped ahead of societal consensus on the issue?

Seldom has a recent Nobel Prize winner in physiology or medicine more directly affected the lives of millions than Robert G. Edwards, the British biologist who was named as the 2010 recipient this week. And seldom has a winner confronted so many societal hurdles. The British government refused to provide funding for the work, so Edwards and his late colleague, Patrick Steptoe, obtained private grants. Many observers suspect that religious and other opposition kept the pair from winning the prize long ago.

Today, most of the criticism has faded away, and although the Vatican still formally objects to in-vitro fertilization, it says little about the subject. Yet the bioethicists had it right; in-vitro fertilization not only allowed the births of millions of babies but opened a whole new chapter of debate about what constitutes a human life.

As happy as society is for the families created through in-vitro fertilization, we're back to the original discussion when it comes to supporting other, even greater breakthroughs the procedure might make possible: the discovery of new cures for serious illnesses through embryonic stem-cell research. Again, a national government—our own—refused to provide the needed funding under the George W. Bush administration. Proposed loosening of restraints by the Obama administration is being fought in court. Discussions of the moral limits of science help to guide the rules for progress, but they should not be allowed to hold back ethically conducted research in this promising field. If those dreamed-of cures become reality in a few decades, there will be new celebrations, new prizes won and distant wonder that anyone could have objected to such a contribution to humanity.

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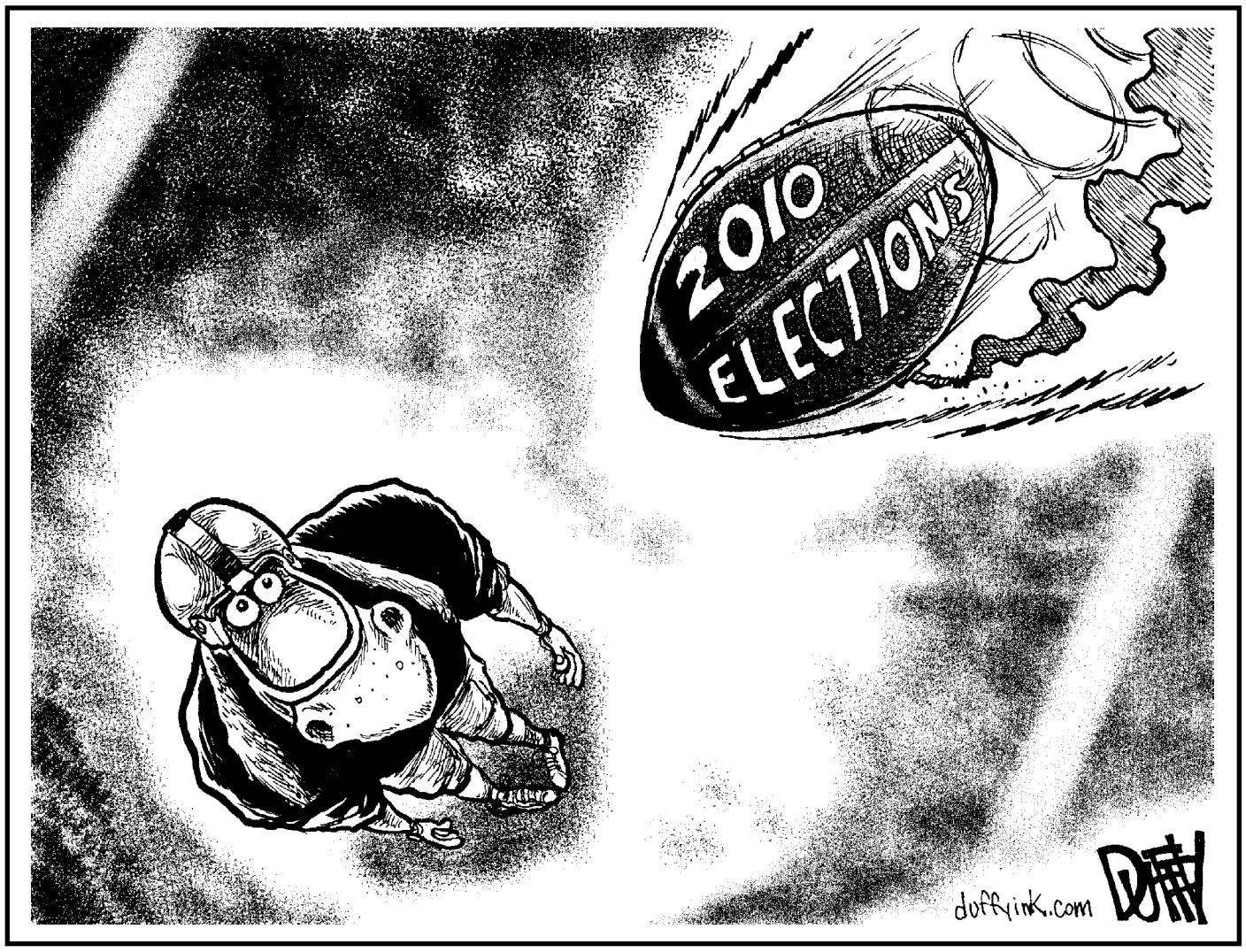


One Global Earth Day 10.10.10

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

Numerology of the day alone is overwhelming. Individual celebrations (e.g., weddings) are being held on Sunday around the globe. My # 2 daughter was married 2nd February 2002 (that's #2 on 02.02.2002 for me) and how can we forget? The image of 10.10.10 is more promising than the ancient Mayan doomsday story of 2012.

A group on Sunday is spearheading an effort to film happenings and events within the full 24-hour rotation of the planet on that calendar day. This is for all amateur and professional film and digital camera shooters, which means virtually everyone these days with the miniaturizations and affordability of the technology. The group will collect footage/dBase and create a documentary. Time-Life did a series on "A Day in the Life of …" a geography/nation way back, and Berry/Swimme's *The Universe Story* popularized a journey of the human mind that heretofore were the province of physicists and astronomers, philosophers and theologians who went questing for the Ultimate Explanation. Today, every Maria and Marushka, Malia and Muria can participate in a glocal groupthink and groupdo.

We are just attempting to tell the Earth's story of a one-day period. The visual nature of the enterprise is what is appealing since words are conceptual and though they trigger the imagination, a picture is still worth a thousand words.

Why, even the international competition of Spark Awards' multidiscipline aspirational designs have made 10.10.10 as their deadline for submission of entrees. This NYC-SF operation has been promoting creative and innovative designs of products, and has this decade made inroads into the Asian market that its promotional website carries the skyline of Hong Kong, that quintessential east-west city of the world.

This being a religious day for most of Christendom, religious events are countless. There is pealing of bells every hour on the hour, and the connection through meditation and prayer is becoming more than just a hairy-fairy phenomenon as researchers are discovering the exponential increase on cooperation through the synergy of many individual minds focused on the same thing. We used to sneer at groupthink because of its manipulative inclination (didn't we all salivate worldwide when presented with an image of sugared water called Coca-Cola?) but we are now finding out that our genes are programmed for collaboration more than competition. Cooperative and coordinated endeavors used to be the purview of fanatics and the sectarian minded. It now appears it might be one of our natural tools for the survival of the specie.

In fact, 10.10.10 is going to be a coordinated One Day of Doing by 350 organizations on climate change, cutting down on carbon emissions in as simple an act as walking instead of driving where one needed to go. For all the denials of commercial corporate power hierarchies, the fact of global warming is no longer debated. The question is how we are going to survive its consequences, and this is more than low-lying islands in the Pacific Ocean getting inundated. Natural catastrophes such as weather patterns and quakes are already occurring and being traced to the radical changes that has occurred in Gaia's surface. The economic, social, and political consequences of climate change is enormous.

In fact, 10.10.10 is going to be a coordinated One Day of Doing by 350 organizations on climate change, cutting down on carbon emissions in as simple an act as walking instead of driving where one needed to go. For all the denials of commercial corporate power hierarchies, the fact of global warming is no longer debated. The question is how we are going to survive its consequences, and this is more than low-lying islands in the Pacific Ocean getting inundated

At the human scale, bodies like the United Methodist Church are focusing on their social action programs, and the theme of Earth guardians cuts across cultural, political, and economic divides around the world. Someone somewhere will be teaching the world a song to sing in human harmony.

The aforementioned Berry/Swimme book on the universe story

See ONE on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

We share the blame

By RICKY DELGADO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ricky Delgado is the CEO of IT&E.

While the CNMI's politicians have incurred the ire of the population for the government's shutdown, this blame should not be placed on their shoulders alone. For many years, all of us have realized that the CNMI has needed drastic economic changes, and yet, nothing has really been done to address the main reason behind the government shutdown: the ever-shrinking CNMI economy. Nothing has been done because the politicians we have elected want to get re-elected, and they dont believe the population wants real change. They believe the population wants the status quo. Hence, we are where we are: the pie keeps shrinking, and our besieged government is unable to keep thousands of government employees gainfully employed.

Article XII is still around, like an albatross around the economy. Because of it, local people cannot get loans to build houses, people from Japan, Guam, Korea, the Mainland, etc, can't buy houses. Developers of hotels and other tourism-related concerns don't reinvest in their properties because, it will be only a matter of time before they need to deal with the CNMI government to extend their leases, and who knows what position the government will take and who will be in power at that time, and what his or her position would be. So what does that mean for tourism? Well, the CNMI looks like a rundown cousin of Guam. Millions and millions of dollars are pouring into Guam real estate, creating jobs, government taxes, and we are left with their crumbs.

Doesn't it strike anyone as strange that the casino initiative has been rejected several times, while at the same time poker parlors are everywhere. If we are serious about tourism, shouldn't we be focusing on making sure that they leave a few dollars in the CNMI rather than the poor contract worker or local who can't even afford to be making any wagers? Let's have it clear once and for all: either we support gaming or we don't. But this mestizo arrangement doesn't work for the tourists. When was the last time you saw a tourist in your neighborhood poker parlor?

Singapore, a city where you get arrested for chewing gum, opened two casinos, and now expects an extra three millions tourists. And to discourage their own population from playing, they charge an entry fee of $80USD just to get in if you can't produce a foreign passport. Why cant we do the same? And if the decision is to market the CNMI as a family friendly destination, we should close everything that even has a hint of impropriety from Garapan, and all over the island. We are either in the mold of Puerto Rico or the Bahamas with a thriving casino scene and nightlife, or we are Disneyland. But we cant be a halfway house anymore.

Sadly the CUC is still government run, the CDA, which is supposed to be aggressively wooing companies with incentives is nonexistent, and a whole host of other legacy problems are not being dealt with aggressively for the betterment of the people. Change is scary. Change is difficult. But it is necessary.

In short, if we want to get the CNMI out of this mess, the population needs to send a clear message to our politicians that it is willing and eager to try out new things. Without that message, we will continue to fall further and further behind our neighbors, and the debates of eight-hour reductions, will turn into 24 or 32 hours or in the worse case, no work at all. No one wants it to come to that.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A straightforward solution to budget impasse

Now it is more than a week since the Legislature should have passed and enacted a balanced budget law, and it appears that there is no relief in sight. It is more so than not that the Legislature is not paying attention on the best solution to solve the budget problem. May I suggest one more time, in just a few sentences, how quickly and straightforward the solution to all this. It will take only 20 minutes of each of the elected legislative member to produce a balanced budget and send it to the governor for his approval.

Take two fiscal years, FY 2009 and FY2010. Find the total costs for personnel and benefits. Divide these figures by two to derive the average. From the resultant computed dollar amount, the Legislature should determine how much funds should be taken away from personnel budget. If for example it is determined that a balance budget would require taking away $10 million, this figure should be incorporated in the structured pay scale established by law. The proposed budget law should instruct all personnel directors and managers to develop the pay scale structure and make it available to the Legislature for adoption. Granted that some positions, ungraded positions, are paid on salary basis, these positions should easily be assigned a salary pay based on a percentage cut. All salaried positions should be addressed differently because of the pay practice based on salary basis. The salary cuts should give such percentage reduction on a sliding scale, hence, those earning above $50,000 should take a higher percentage cut and follow a descending order to the minimum salary assignment for ungraded positions. All these should be the responsibility of the respective personnel or human resources director or equivalent official within the CNMI governmental structure.

There is no need to continue the shutdown of government any more days than today. In the first place, this could have been avoided many months before the end of this fiscal year. Now, it is the aim to avoid further delay and bring the government to a functional status and make it work to providing essential and needed public services. No one should be in furlough and no position in government should be placed in status quo under this severe and difficult economic conditions. If any employee feels that his or her position is not worth having, then make him/her decide to vacate the position. This situation then will be another latent effect of the cost reduction impact of amending the salary scale structure when done and designed by competent officials and practitioners performing these types of responsibilities and functions.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa

The CNMI deserves better

It is indeed very sad to see our government operating in a vacuum. We urgently need real leadership and statesmanship as the art of compromise and negotiations are not for the faint-hearted incompetents. Where is the leadership that we were promised just last November? We have a very short memory and are now suffering because of it and we are now paying for our political mistakes.

About five years ago, we were promised "Better Times" but we all know how terrible, miserable, chaotic, and tumultuous those years were. Continuous power outages, rampant robberies, federal takeover of the CNMI minimum wage and immigration, and the horrible list goes on. The CNMI economy then started its decline and continues to fall at an unprecedented pace.

During the election, we were told then that Benigno R. Fitial was the "Economy Governor" and was sure to fix the economy as many investors were going to invest in the CNMI once we elected him governor. Peanut factory, shoe factory, and many other investments were waiting at our doorstep. Where are the investments?

Now, we are into the fifth year since Fitial occupied the Office of the Governor. Unfortunately, we still have four more years with him at the helm as a result of last November's election. Can we wait that long? The administration feels that by submitting the FY2011 budget to the Legislature in April, as mandated by the Planning & Budgeting Act, they have completed and satisfied their statutory and constitutional duties and therefore no longer their problem. The people are suffering. Where is Benigno Fitial? Why has he not come out to the public and explain our current dire situation and to put calm in our community? This is important to avoid panic.

This is not about "separation of powers" but about lack of leadership and lack of statesmanship. The governor's responsibility with the budget is not done by simply submitting it to the Legislature. It is done only when it becomes a law and the delivery of vital public services are not disrupted or hampered.

The current administration seems to be totally occupied with layoffs, reduction in hours, and other miscellaneous austerity measures as their management priority. While it is commendable in any organization, including our government, to exercise prudence, frugality, and other "belt-tightening" measures, it is important to remember that you can only cut so much before the government becomes ineffective in the delivery of vital public services.

We need to focus our energy in truly seeking new and innovative revenue-generating activities. Business as usual is no longer acceptable. If we want to succeed, we must be willing to change our paradigm. We must stop thinking from the position of "scarcity" but rather from the position of "abundance." We must change our mindset and then develop policies that are consistent with the vision. The only scarcities that we have are those of creativity and ingenuity. As someone once said, "argue your limitations and they are yours".

What the CNMI government now needs is a competent, energetic, and focused leader with a clear vision for our future. One who has integrity, commitment, and the heart to guide our Commonwealth into the future. We need true leaders willing to surround himself with competent advisors (and not the old guard that got us here in the first place).

The administration needs to focus on increasing our revenues and not just cutbacks. The CNMI has a lot to offer and we need to revisit and reassess our "resources" and other "assets" and to determine and strategize how best to utilize these resources to assist us in dealing with our economic crisis. We need competent leaders to reassess how best to benefit from our location in the world, our tropical climate, our beautiful and pristine beaches, our friendly people and unique culture, our fish and other marine resources, our agricultural resources, our unique political relations with the U.S., our business friendly tax structure, and many other natural resources and related amenities that are abundant in our tropical paradise. We must, however, resist the temptation to increase taxes or the cost of doing business, as these measures are counterproductive. Increasing taxes and other government fees during an economic recession is a recipe for disaster and will further aggravate our already dismal economic condition.

We have much to offer but we need leaders who can see this abundance and guide us beyond today and into tomorrow. Our community should demand better and more from our elected leaders. Benigno Fitial and his Covenant Party have demonstrated their inability to govern. The governor and his Covenant Party cohort, Speaker of the House, are old, sick, obsolete, outdated, and out-of-touch with reality. We need to put them out of their misery by voting them out of office now through the "recall" process. The CNMI deserves better!

Jon Guerrero
San Vicente

ONE

From Page 10

is actually subtitled From the Primordial Flaring Forth to the Ecozoic Era, our era being now tilted toward an earth/nature-centered paradigm. Human history moved from the discovery of tribal identity beyond biology to societal civilization, which focused on our social arrangements and psychic relationships. The Ecozoic age is as much a radical transformation as has happened between tribe and nation. Still, the United States is stuck in the business of maintaining an empire built on cheap fossil fuel and sustained in a perpetual state of war. Many still cling to the Malthusian economic theory that there is not enough food to feed the Earth's exploding population so we design programs and systems not to defray nurture for many in order to sustain in being and in style a favored few.

In Nepal, there are shamans who live outside of villages who act as mediators between regular people and the feathered, finned, and furred people. The relationship between humans and other creatures is honored and respected. Even I fell into the habit of taking shells from my rare foray to the lagoon and our rocky shorelines until a colleague reminded me that we do have a no-take policy in place so I desisted the practice. Growing up, we used to say a few words when passing by the banana groves to honor the natural spirits. We have in our technological and industrial arrogance forgotten that we belong to the natural world.

So today, the globe awaits our reflection and doing. Our being depends on it. Ten. Isn't that the perfect score? Do well.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼79°	▲85° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

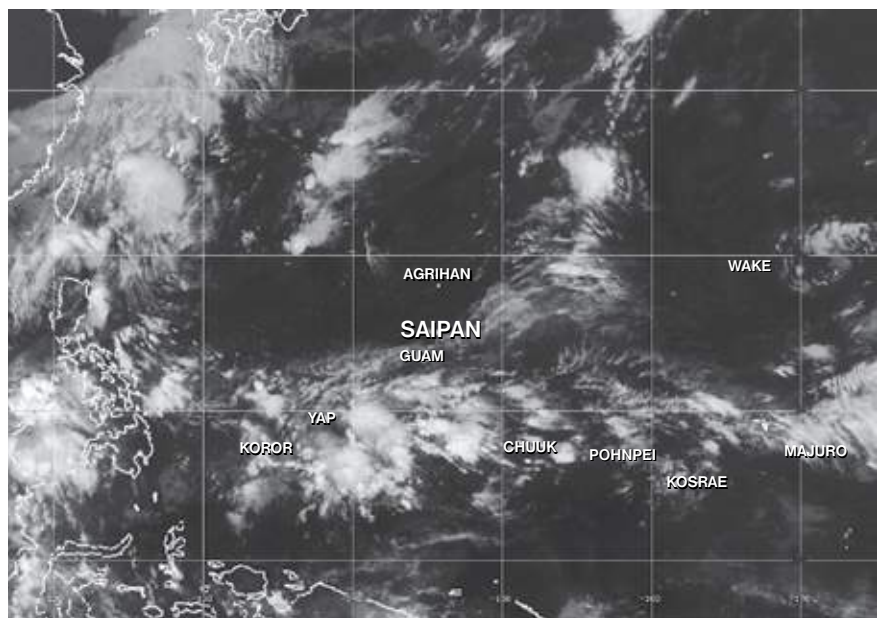
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼78
Yap	Rain	▲86	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲90	▼77
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼54
Beijing	Showers	▲74	▼53
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲82	▼70
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼74
London	Fog	▲68	▼56
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲80	▼61
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼77
Melbourne	Sunny	▲75	▼46
Miami	Sunny	▲86	▼71
New York	Sunny	▲71	▼47
Osaka	Showers	▲76	▼63
Paris	Sunny	▲75	▼56
Pusan	Sunny	▲74	▼63
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼57
Salem	Rain	▲62	▼60
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼63
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼56
Tokyo	Showers	▲73	▼65
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲81	▼58

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends southwestward from 25N154E to 14N150E. Converging winds near the trough are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of the Marianas between 16N and 10N from 147E to 157E and southeast of Minami Tori Shima within an area bounded by a line from 20N153E to 25N158E to 17N161E to 15N158E back to 20N153E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Yap between 12N and 3N from 135E to 146E farther east. Scattered showers are located south of Chuuk and over Pohnpei within 120 miles of a line from 5N148E to 8N165E and east of the Marshall Islands between 11N and 6N from 171E to the date line.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:19 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
8:47 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
2:41 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
8:02 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:08 AM	6:01 PM
Sunday	6:08 AM	6:00 PM
Monday	6:08 AM	6:00 PM
Tuesday	6:08 AM	5:59 PM
Wednesday	6:08 AM	5:58 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:14 AM	7:01 PM
Sunday	8:17 AM	7:54 PM
Monday	9:18 AM	8:49 PM
Tuesday	10:17 AM	9:45 PM
Wednesday	11:12 AM	10:41 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA

DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily

NAGOYA-SAIPAN

DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL630/641	6:30am	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio

Sunday	
9am	Sunday school
10am	Regular worship
6pm	worship
Wednesday	
7pm	worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service
located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Business

Economy likely creating some jobs, but not enough

WASHINGTON (AP)—Companies likely added a small number of jobs last month, but hardly enough to bring much relief to the nation's 15 million unemployed.

On Friday, the Labor Department will issue the final monthly jobs report before the midterm congressional elections. The report is likely to leave President Barack Obama in a precarious position: Democratic members of Congress will face voters with unemployment likely above 9.5 percent.

Economists estimate private employers added a net total of 75,000 jobs in September. But they expect that number to be offset by the loss of an equal number of temporary Census jobs. Overall, economists expect no change in the nation's total payrolls.

The unemployment rate is projected to rise to 9.7 percent from 9.6 percent, according to a survey of economists by Thomson Reuters, as more people look for work. People who are out of work aren't counted as unemployed until they actively look for a job.

Economists see few signs that the jobs situation will improve anytime soon.

"There's not much growth going on in the economy right now, so that doesn't give employers much reason for hiring," said Nigel Gault, an economist at IHS Global Insight.

Gault said he expects the pace of job creation to remain similarly weak for the rest of this year. Some economists say the unemployment rate could top 10 percent by next year.

The economy expanded at a scant 1.7 percent annual rate in the April-June quarter. Most analysts think growth was similarly weak in the July-September quarter.

Since the recession ended in June 2009, the economy has grown 3 percent, according to economists at Deutsche Bank. That's less than half the average 6.5 percent pace in postwar recoveries.

Some encouraging signs did emerge in government reports Thursday. For the fourth time in five weeks, fewer people applied for unemployment benefits. The number who did so fell to the lowest level since July.

And job openings rose in August for the second-straight month, to 3.2 million.

But neither figure is strong enough to signal broad gains in job creation. Employers advertised 4.4 million job openings in December 2007, when the recession began.

"The data that we're seeing is still consistent with a very slow jobs recovery," said Michelle Meyer, an economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

Weak job growth will likely force the Federal Reserve to take further steps to boost the economy. Most economists expect the Fed to act next month to buy government debt to try to lower interest rates and spur more borrowing.

Japanese Cabinet OKs $61B economic stimulus

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's Cabinet on Friday approved 5.05 trillion yen ($61 billion) in new economic stimulus, the latest in a string of measures to shore up the country's lethargic economy that has been battered by a surging yen.

The plan also called for funding to secure rare earths needed for Japan's advanced manufacturing after China last month imposed a de facto export ban on the minerals amid a territorial dispute between the two Asian giants.

Prime Minister Naoto Kan's new package aims to boost Japan's gross domestic product by 0.6 percentage points, create or save up to 500,000 jobs and take other steps to help small and medium sized businesses.

It comes just days after the central bank cut its key interest rate to virtually zero. Last month, the Bank of Japan also intervened in the currency market in what appears to have been a fruitless attempt to rein in the strong yen—which hit another 15-year high against the dollar this week.

Exports are down, factory output is falling and Japan continues to struggle with deflation, a situation in which falling prices can drag on corporate profits, paychecks and the overall economy. The yen's spike, meanwhile, erodes overseas earnings for major exporters like Toyota Motor Corp. and Canon Inc.

Kan, who came to power just four months ago and survived a leadership challenge from within his party in September, has been under heavy political pressure to produce a tangible path to recovery for Japan's economy.

The massive new package, to be submitted this month to parliament for approval, follows 915 billion yen ($11 billion) in measures that Kan's government unveiled last month.

"To implement these economic measures, the fiscal budget is the major issue of the current parliamentary session, and I will devote my full efforts to see that it is passed," Kan told members of parliament Friday morning.

Nation

White House defends waivers from new health law

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House on Thursday defended granting waivers to some employers from a key provision of the new health care law, saying it was the best way to keep people insured until the law fully takes effect.

At issue is a new requirement banning annual caps on benefits, which began phasing in last month. Many employers and insurers that offer low-cost, low-benefit insurance plans known as "mini-med" plans would not have been able to comply with the new requirement without raising monthly premiums to virtually unaffordable levels.

So the administration has granted 30 waivers to date exempting companies from the requirement for a year.

Waivers went to companies including Jack in the Box, Cigna and the company that insures some McDonald's workers, and another 114 applications for waivers are under review by the Health and Human Services Department. One waiver request has been denied, but HHS declined to identify which company was involved.

"The waivers are about ensuring and protecting the coverage that people have until there are better options available to them in 2014," when the health law is fully implemented, White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs told reporters. "We want to ensure that in the time that it takes to implement the law and to give people better options, that they don't find themselves at the mercy of an insurance company jacking up their rates. And that's why those waivers were granted."

Another issue is a different provision in the law that will require that a specified percentage of health plan expenditures—80 percent to 85 percent—be spent on medical as opposed to administrative costs. That provision doesn't take effect until next year, but it got attention last week when the Wall Street Journal reported that McDonald's had alerted the administration it would not be able to comply. The administration subsequently indicated it would be flexible in applying the regulation.

Both complications arise because of the decision by lawmakers and the White House to trigger certain protections in the legislation before the bulk of the law takes effect. After the contentious debate around the health care bill, policymakers didn't want the public to wait until 2014 to see any benefit.

Once 2014 rolls around, nearly everyone will be required to carry insurance, and insurance marketplaces called "exchanges" will be established in which individuals will be able to shop for comprehensive insurance plans with government subsidies. Before that transformation takes place, new rules applied to the current system require the government to show flexibility in some cases.

AP

White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs briefs reporters at the White House in Washington, Thursday, Oct. 7, 2010.

Sheriff's office: Shirt backs up deputy's story

FLORENCE, Ariz. (AP)—Independent testing of a bloodied shirt backs up the story of a deputy who contends he was shot by drug smugglers in the remote desert, officials said Thursday. The deputy dismissed speculation that he staged the incident to publicize drug and human smuggling.

The Pinal County Sheriff's Office said the Arizona Department of Public Safety concluded that a bullet passed through the shirt, but that no gunpowder was found on it. The sheriff's office said that confirms the bullet was fired from far away, as Deputy Louie Puroll said it was.

"This case is now closed, and we're going to move on," Sheriff Paul Babeu said.

Puroll told investigators he was following a group of smugglers carrying bales of marijuana when he was ambushed by men firing AK-47 rifles about 50 miles south of Phoenix on April 30.

In what Puroll described as a running gunbattle, he was grazed by a bullet in the small of the back.

The shooting immediately raised questions about why a deputy would be looking for armed drug smugglers in the remote desert without backup. A dragnet involving more than 100 officers in the rugged mountainous area found no suspects and no bales of marijuana.

In his first public comments since the shooting, Puroll said he didn't plan on confronting the smugglers.

"I never intended to get close to them," a blunt-talking Puroll told a news conference. "They just stopped sooner than I thought they would. If I'd have known I was going to get in a gunfight, I'd have taken five or six guys with me. I can't imagine anybody shooting themself, let alone me."

He said he believes he hit one of the men during the firefight but wasn't surprised that the dragnet didn't find any sign of the men or their cargo.

"It's a big desert," Puroll said. "A motivated individual who carries drug packs for a living and knows the cops are coming can cover a lot of distance in 2 1/2 hours. If you gave me 2 1/2 hours head start in the desert, you would not find me, no matter how many helicopters you used."

Puroll said he was an experienced deputy who made his living working alone in the desert.

"I've had as many as 40 (illegal immigrants) at a time surrender to me, surrounding my truck and begging for water and to call the Border Patrol," he said.

AP

Pinal County Sheriff's Deputy Louie Puroll shows everyone his bullet wound scar during a news conference at the Pinal County Sheriff's complex Thursday, Oct. 7, 2010, in Florence, Ariz.

Senate report slams Afghan security contractors

WASHINGTON (AP)—Heavy U.S. reliance on private security in Afghanistan has helped to line the pockets of the Taliban because contractors often don't vet local recruits and wind up hiring warlords and thugs, Senate investigators said Thursday.

The finding, in a report by the Senate Armed Services Committee, follows a separate congressional inquiry in June that concluded that trucking contractors pay tens of millions of dollars a year to local warlords for convoy protection.

Sen. Carl Levin, chairman of the Senate panel, said he is worried the U.S. is unknowingly fostering the growth of Taliban-linked militias at a time when Kabul is struggling to recruit its own soldiers and police officers.

"Almost all are Afghans. Almost all are armed," Levin, a Michigan Democrat, said of the army of young men working under U.S. contracts.

"We need to shut off the spigot of U.S. dollars flowing into the pockets of warlords and power brokers who act contrary to our interests and contribute to the corruption that weakens the support of the Afghan people for their government," he added.

The Defense Department doesn't necessarily disagree but warns that firing the estimated 26,000 private security personnel operating in Afghanistan in the near future isn't practical.

This summer, U.S. forces in Afghanistan pledged to increase their oversight of security contractors and set up two task forces to look into allegations of misconduct and to track the money spent, particularly among lower-level subcontractors.

The Defense Contract Management Agency has increased the number of auditors and support staff in the region by some 300 percent since 2007. And in September, Gen. David Petraeus, the top war commander in Afghanistan, directed his staff to consider the impact that contract spending has on military operations.

But military officials and Republicans on the Senate Armed Services Committee warn that ending the practice of hiring local guards could worsen the security situation in Afghanistan.

They say providing young Afghan men with employment can prevent them from joining the ranks of Taliban fighters. And bringing in foreign workers to do jobs Afghans can do is likely to foster resentment, they say.

Also, contract security forces fill an immediate need at a time when U.S. forces are focused on operations, commanders say.

"As the security environment in Afghanistan improves, our need for (private security contractors) will diminish," Petraeus told the Senate panel in July. "But in the meantime, we will use legal, licensed and controlled (companies) to accomplish appropriate missions."

Levin says he isn't suggesting that the U.S. stop using private security contractors altogether. But, he adds, the U.S. must reduce the number of local security guards and improve the vetting process of new hires if there's any hope of reversing a trend that he says damages the U.S. mission in Afghanistan.

His report represents the broadest look at Defense Department security contracts so far, with a review of 125 of these agreements between 2007 and 2009.

The review concludes there were "systemic failures" in the management of the contracts, including "widespread" failures "to adequately vet, train and supervise armed security personnel."

ACROSS THE NATION

Wayward baggage handler causes Pa. security scare

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Two US Airways workers loading a Bermuda-bound plane grew suspicious of whether another baggage handler was allowed to be near the jet and confronted him Thursday, leading the man to flee and forcing transportation security officials to remove passengers and rescan all their luggage. More than 100 passengers and five crew members were taken off US Airways Flight 1070 for more than four hours over the security issue. The Philadelphia baggage handlers alerted their bosses when they saw a co-worker who was not assigned to be near the plane, FBI spokesman J.J. Klaver said.

10 injured in Knott's rollercoaster accident

BUENA PARK, Calif. (AP)—Authorities say 10 people have been taken to hospitals after suffering minor injuries in a rollercoaster accident at Knott's Berry Farm in Orange County. Fire Authority Capt. Greg McKeown says the accident happened Thursday night on the Pony Express. He says two rollercoaster cars collided in the station where park guests board the ride. Nine people on the cars and one person who was waiting nearby were injured.

Utah gay activists protest Mormon church remarks

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Gay rights activist have staged a silent protest outside the headquarters of the Mormon church in Salt Lake City. The demonstration Thursday night was a response to remarks from a church leader that homosexuality is an immoral condition that can and should be overcome. The remarks by Boyd K. Packer of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles were made Sunday during the 180th semiannual conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City. Activists have called the remarks hurtful and say they ostracize gay Latter-day Saints. Dressed in black to symbolize the loss of young, gay Mormons to suicide, activists lay head-to-toe on the sidewalks circling the church's seven-block downtown campus. Police estimated the crowd at about 1,000.

Asia

Chinese dissident hot bet for Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO, Norway (AP)—Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo tops speculation for the Nobel Peace Prize—one betting site has already declared him the winner—though some experts expect a more low-key choice on Friday.

Two women are also hot candidates in this year's Nobel buzz: Afghan women's rights activist Sima Samar and Russian human rights activist Svetlana Gannushkina.

The last woman to win the coveted award was Wangari Maathai of Kenya in 2004. Of the 97 peace laureates to date, only 12 have been women.

Liu, who was sentenced last Christmas Day to 11 years in prison for subversion, has received by far the most attention in the annual guessing-game for the $1.5 million award.

Irish bookmaker Paddy Power said it received so many bets on the 54-year-old literary critic it decided on an early payout, shelling out more than euro5,000 in total to those who had put money on him by the end of Tuesday.

"Obviously we're taking a risk but it's a calculated one. Over the past decade we have never experienced such strong betting support for any individual candidate and this leads us to believe that this year's Nobel cat is well and truly out of the bag," company spokesman Ken Robertson said in a statement.

The nonvoting secretary of the Nobel committee Geir Lundestad called the decision "bizarre," but declined to comment further on speculation surrounding the award.

Norwegian analysts who follow the peace prize closely said they expect a winner with a lower profile, especially considering the unusually strong criticism the award committee faced last year for honoring President Barack Obama. Critics said the award was premature, just nine months into his presidency.

AP

In this Oct. 23, 2009 file photo, pro-democracy activists hold pictures of Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo, who was arrested after co-authoring a bold manifesto urging civil rights and political reform, outside the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong.

German militants training in Pakistani border area

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The video at first seems like many others filmed in Pakistan's tribal areas: The bearded militant sits cross-legged on the floor, an AK-47 propped against the wall behind him. But as he applauds his three companions' decision to join jihad, the words come out in fluent German: "Wir sind die Soldaten Allahs," he says—"We are the soldiers of Allah."

Between 15 and 40 Germans and a smaller contingent of other Europeans are believed to be getting militant training in Pakistan's lawless border region, intending to join the Taliban's fight against NATO forces in neighboring Afghanistan or return to Europe and strike at the soft underbelly of those countries.

Their presence has attracted fresh scrutiny after a European terror warning based on information from a German-Afghan captured in Afghanistan, and a CIA drone strike Tuesday that allegedly killed eight German militants in North Waziristan—an al-Qaida and Taliban hub that the Pakistani army has so far left largely alone.

The German speaker in the jihad video, Mounir Chouka, is one of two Bonn-born brothers with dual German-Moroccan citizenship well known for appearances in videos made by the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan apparently aimed at recruiting more militants from Germany. German federal prosecutors confirmed Thursday that the two are under investigation on suspicion of membership in a terrorist organization.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Marines in Marjah face full-blown insurgency

MARJAH, Afghanistan (AP)—The young Marine had a simple question for the farmer with the white beard: Have you seen any Taliban today? The answer came within seconds—from insurgents hiding nearby who ended the conversation with bursts of automatic rifle fire that sent deadly rounds cracking overhead. It was a telling coincidence—and the start of yet another gunbattle in Marjah, the southern poppy-producing hub which U.S. forces wrested from Taliban control in February to restore government rule. Eight months on, the Taliban are still here in force, waging a full-blown guerrilla insurgency that rages daily across a bomb-riddled landscape of agricultural fields and irrigation trenches.

Warrants issued for 5 Pakistanis in Mumbai attacks

NEW DELHI (AP)—Interpol notified its members on Thursday that India has issued arrest warrants for five Pakistani citizens, including two army officers, for alleged involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, an official said. India asked Interpol to issue the so-called "red corner notices" for the five Pakistanis, said R.K. Gaur, a spokesman for India's Central Bureau of Investigation. The notices follow a probe by India's National Investigation Agency into the role of American David Coleman Headley, who pleaded guilty in the United States in March to participating in the planning of the attacks, which killed 166 people.

Playboy Indonesia's former editor at large

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Prosecutors were searching for the former editor-in-chief of Playboy Indonesia on Friday after he failed to show up to begin his two-year jail sentence for publishing pictures of scantily clothed women. They want to present Erwin Arnada—now at large—with a warrant for his arrest. The Supreme Court said in August that it had found Arnada guilty of violating the predominantly Muslim nation's indecency laws, overruling an earlier acquittal. His lawyers said he would start serving his two-year sentence Thursday and were unaware of his whereabouts Friday.

World

Chile list says which miners should go first, last

SAN JOSE MINE, Chile (AP)—Before 33 trapped Chilean miners can begin their passage to the outside world, still more people will join them down below to make their journey as smooth as it can be.

These men—an elite group of three paramedics with the Chilean navy's special forces and 13 rescue experts with the state-owned mining company Codelco—will work in shifts during the 48 hours it could take to evaluate the men and strap them into the escape capsule for their 15-20 minute ride to the surface.

And the paramedics will be empowered to change a list, already prepared, that suggests the order of the miners' rescue.

The list is based on daily examinations of the miners' physical and mental health and strength of character during more than two months of captivity, Cmdr. Renato Navarro, the Chilean navy's submarine chief, told The Associated Press on Thursday.

The first one up should be someone capable of handling a frightening setback in the narrow shaft, and describing how the next ones up might avoid problems, Navarro said.

"The most able miners will leave first—those who can better describe to the next how they might avoid the potential problems that the capsule might encounter. Then those with illnesses or who suffer from one problem or another. And finally the last to surface are the strongest physically or in terms of their character."

Navarro would not reveal the list's suggested order, since it may change before the miners are pulled out if a miner suffers a health setback, and since the paramedics who descend into the mine will ultimately make their own judgment calls. "The paramedics will have the last word," he said.

Among the most physically fit of the miners is Edison Pena, an athlete who said he has been running 10 kilometers a day down below.

Next come those with chronic illnesses, like Jose Ojeda with diabetes and Jorge Galleguillos with hypertension, and those who are older, like Mario Gomez, the oldest at 63.

Last up will be those considered most capable of handling the anxiety of being left behind as their comrades disappear one by one.

Candidates include the paramedic Yonny Barrios, or Jose Henriquez, who has been leading twice-daily prayer sessions. But many people believe the last miner up will be shift supervisor Luis Urzua, whose disciplined leadership was credited with keeping the men alive on an emergency food supply during their first 17 days without contact from the outside world.

"It could be Urzua, but it's still not confirmed. The concept of a captain being the last one to abandon ship could be applied," Navarro acknowledged.

Those who know Urzua are sure he'll insist on going last.

Toxic red sludge reaches the Danube River

KOLONTAR, Hungary (AP)—Red sludge flowed into the Danube River on Thursday, threatening a half-dozen nations along one of Europe's key waterways. Monitors took samples every few hour to measure damage from the toxic spill and emergency officials declared one Hungarian tributary dead.

As cleanup crews gathered deer carcasses and other wildlife from the villages in southwestern Hungary flooded by the industrial waste, environmental groups warned of long-term damage to the farming region's topsoil.

Conflicting information swirled about the dangers posed by the ankle-deep muck coating the most seriously hit areas after the collapse of a waste-storage reservoir at a nearby alumina plant Monday.

The Hungarian Academy of Sciences maintained that while the material was a continued hazard, its heavy metal concentrations were not considered dangerous to the environment.

"The academy can say whatever it wants," fumed Barbara Szalai Szita, who lives in Devecser, one of the hardest-hit villages. "All I know is that if I spend 30 minutes outside I get a foul taste in my mouth and my tongue feels strange."

Hungary's environment minister, Zoltan Illes, said the henna-colored sludge covering a 16-square-mile swathe of countryside does have "a high content of heavy metals," some of which can cause cancer. He warned of possible environmental hazards, particularly if it were to enter the groundwater system.

With rain giving way to dry, warmer weather over the past two days, the caustic mud is increasingly turning to airborne dust, which can cause respiratory problems, Illes added.

"If that would dry out then ... wind can blow ... that heavy metal contamination through the respiratory system," he said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mexico: US wavers in drug war with Calif. pot vote

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP)—President Felipe Calderon said Thursday that a California ballot measure to legalize marijuana represents hypocrisy in U.S. drug policy for encouraging consumption while at the same time demanding that Mexico and other countries crack down on drug trafficking. "For me, it reflects a terrible inconsistency in government policies in the United States," the Mexican leader said late Thursday in an interview with The Associated Press. California voters will decide on Nov. 2 whether to allow possession of up to 1 ounce of marijuana. Proposition 19 would also clear the way for local governments to permit retail sales of pot. Calderon said he was certain that legalizing marijuana will lead to an increase in drug consumption.

Israelis, Palestinians signal deal on settlements

JERUSALEM (AP)—In the clearest sign that a deal may be emerging to keep the troubled U.S. Mideast peace push alive, a top Palestinian official said Thursday that his side would accept an American proposal for Israel to curtail settlement construction for two months. Israel indicated it, too, was edging toward a compromise. The country's ambassador to Washington confirmed for the first time that the U.S. is offering "incentives" for Israel to extend a just-expired settlement slowdown. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also came out in favor of a contentious new loyalty oath in what appeared to be an attempt to placate hard-liners opposed to further concessions on the settlements. The settlement issue has threatened to derail peace talks just a month after they were launched at the White House.

Maharlika
PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS
Saturday, October 9, 2010

Aquino: We're ready for takeoff

By CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—President Benigno Aquino III Thursday announced that he had given the government back to the people and that backed by a stronger economy, he would provide even more jobs and a better future.

"As the peso continues to get stronger and the economy flourishes, prices of goods remain steady. We are ready for takeoff," Mr. Aquino said in a speech he delivered in Filipino on the eve of his 100-day mark as President. The 20-minute speech was based on his report titled "100 Days on the Straight Road: Report to the Boss" ("Isang Daang Araw sa Isang Daang Matuwid: Report kay Boss").

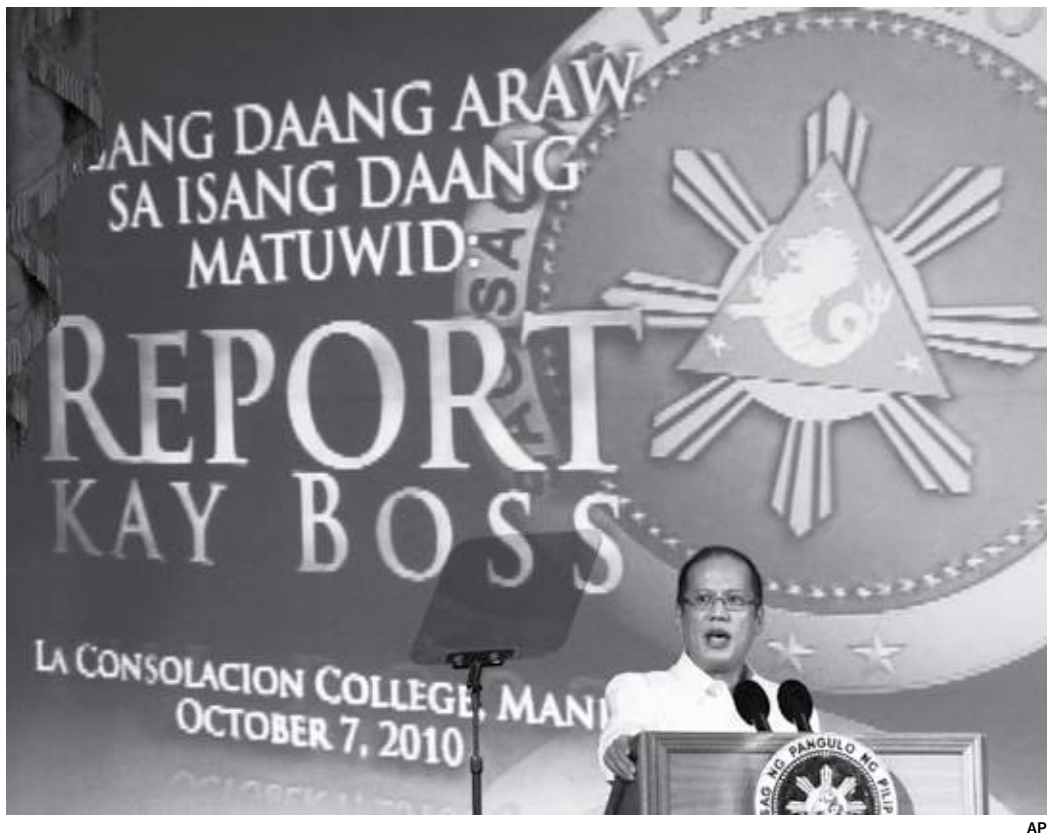
In a packed auditorium at La Consolacion College in Manila, a smiling and relaxed President reported his achievements in a town-hall gathering attended by some of his kin, Cabinet members and other government officials, supporters dressed in his signature yellow, as well as students and other sectoral representatives.

Of his four sisters, only Pinky Abellada attended the event. But his uncles Agapito Aquino, Paul Aquino and Jose Cojuangco were present.

Mr. Aquino reported that his administration was able to save billions of pesos in government funds from questionable projects and programs of his predecessor, and that these and gains from the stronger economy would be "returned to the people so that they could rise from poverty."

There was no word on the controversies hounding his young administration, such as the Aug. 23 hostage-taking crisis and the contentious debate on reproductive health, or human rights violations.

But he mentioned his detractors, as well as government officials wanting to return to the old way of governance, warning them that "their days are numbered."



AP
Philippine President Benigno Aquino III delivers his report on his first 100 days in office inside a school near the Malacanang presidential palace in Manila, Philippines on Thursday, Oct. 7, 2010.

No peso put to waste

The President said his administration had inherited "deep and wide" problems from that of his predecessor, now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, which he likened to "three monkeys who were deaf, blind and creating their own reality."

"This is wrong. Now, you have a government ready to talk and tell the truth, ready to listen, ready to raise the level of public discourse on issues affecting the people and future generations as well," he said.

Now, he said, "we have a government that neither neglects you nor oppresses you."

Mr. Aquino said that for the last three months, investor confidence had returned, the peso had strengthened, and the country had a stronger stock market hitting an "all-time-high record" just the other day of 4,196.73 points.

Still, he said, his administration was kept busy curbing spending because under his watch, "no peso should be put to waste."

He cited Executive Order No. 7 suspending the bonuses and allowances enjoyed by officials of government-owned and -controlled corporations which he said were excessive.

Mr. Aquino said his administration was finally able to resolve the disputed contract of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3, which would generate savings for the government.

He lamented that the case had gone unresolved for so long and that many people had been killed because of it. He credited Justices Florentino Feliciano and Lourdes Sereno for resolving the case despite death threats.

"Had the government lost in this case, $990 million would have been taken out of our funds. They (Feliciano and Sereno) were able to save P43.5 billion for us," he said.

More savings

The government was also able to prevent the misspending of P934.1 million by canceling and then putting up for rebidding negotiated public works contracts, the President said.

"Because if we followed the right process [in bidding projects], we would only be spend-

See WE'RE READY on next page

Saipan OFWs complete baking course

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Students of the Basic Baking, Bread Making and Cake Decorating Course successfully completed the program offered by the Philippine Consulate General Office through the Philippine Overseas Labor Office last Oct. 3.

Members of the class were recognized in a graduation ceremony held on Oct. 3 at the Filipino Workers Resource Center in Marianas Business Plaza.

Ofelia S. Lopez served as instructor for the fifth batch of graduates who availed of the free program which began on Aug. 15.

During her speech, Lopez said she was inspired by the same students who were enrolled in the culinary arts class of Chef Hermie Coronejo of Fiesta Resort & Spa in June.

Some 60 students, graduates, and volunteers prepared a scrumptious feast for the Consulate-hosted celebration of Philippine Independence Day last June 13.

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Graduates of the Basic Baking, Bread Making and Cake Decorating Course Batch 5 pose with instructor Ofelia S. Lopez (seated, third from left) and officials of the Philippine Consulate General Office and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office during their graduation ceremony last Oct. 3.

Seeing the students' hard work and perseverance, Lopez decided to grant their request for her to teach a basic course in baking.

In an interview, Lopez said the course involved a field trip to Herman's Modern Bakery where she works as a cake decorating supervisor.

Lopez said the field trip gave the students the exposure in an actual bakery to see how it operates.

"Thank you very much for your trust and the opportunity to share what I know about baking," Lopez told the graduates.

In behalf of the graduates, class president Marlon Regaton also thanked Lopez for giving them the knowledge and understanding in the baking business.

Regaton said the course helped the students to learn as well as develop friendship and camaraderie among them.

The class gave tokens and certificates of appreciation to Lopez, Ernesto Lineses, Herman's Modern Bakery, labor officer Rey Tayag, and Jojo Sotto for their invaluable contribution to the success of the program.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig commended the students for a job well done. "Being an employee has an age limit while an entrepreneur doesn't have a limit," he said.

Through the program, Macaraig said the graduates now have knowledge which they can bring back to the Philippines should they decide to go home.

Macaraig urged the graduates to use their knowledge and put up their own business.

"Go on to the next level and start a business to help ourselves, other people, and our country," he said.

Ramir T. Herrera, who was among the graduates, said he became interested in the culinary arts when he arrived on Saipan more than seven years ago.

When he learned in late 2009 about the different courses offered by POLO, Herrera said he decided to enroll in the different classes.

"After taking the culinary and baking classes, I can cook for my family when I go to the Philippines," he said.

With enough capital, Herrera said he plans to venture in the food business. "Hopefully, I can do franchising of the chicken inasal," he said.

The graduation ceremony featured a food banquet highlighted by the different cakes and pastries prepared by the students.

He's the only Nobel winner living in RP

By TARRA QUISMUNDO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines— "Am I the only Nobel Prize winner in the Philippines?" the 79-year-old American chemist, walking around with a cane, joked as reporters and photographers flocked to his rented Quezon City bungalow.

Richard Heck, one of the three winners of the Nobel Prize in chemistry this year, lives quietly in a crowded neighborhood.

Until the news of the awards broke the other day, no one could have known that a chemistry genius was living behind the low red gates on the corner of an L-shaped street, where neighbors had hung their wash to dry in a maze of clotheslines.

Settling in the Philippines in 2006 after years of travel around the world, Heck and his Filipino wife, Socorro, got the call of their lives on Wednesday, just before they sat down for supper.

"It (the award) took a long time. It was slow. In fact, I was not expecting to receive any award. I was sort of giving up, not that I thought I should get one," said Heck, who retired in 1987 after teaching and doing research work as a professor emeritus at the University of Delaware.

Heck and his fellow winners—Japanese scientists Purdue University's Ei-ichi Negishi, 75, and Akira Suzuki, 80—separately made outstanding contributions in organic chemistry, a field whose basis is carbon, one of the essential elements of life and also of innumerable industrial synthetics.

AP

American Richard Heck and his Filipino wife Socorro, display some of his awards during an interview with the Associated Press at their residence at Manila's Quezon city in the Philippines shortly after The Royal Academy of Sciences announced in Sweden he won the 2010 Nobel Prize in Chemistry Wednesday.

Heck and the two Japanese scientists will share a $1.49-million prize for their work.

They developed a process known as palladium-catalyzed cross coupling, a means of knitting carbon atoms together so that they form a stable "skeleton" for organic molecules.

It has allowed chemists to synthesize compounds to fight colon cancer, the herpes virus and HIV, as well as smarter plastics that are used in consumer applications, such as ultra-thin computer monitors.

'They happen by accident'

"It's a new way to make organic compounds used in drugs, dyes and many others," said Heck, who finished his undergraduate degree and doctorate at the University of California, Los Angeles.

"You don't plan these things. They happen by accident. I was just lucky, I guess," said the Massachusetts-born chemist, the only son of a housewife and a salesman.

Heck and Socorro have been married for 31 years. He was visiting Manila as a tourist when he met her in her mother's canteen at the Malacañang compound, where she was working as her mother's assistant.

They married in 1979 after a one-month courtship. They are childless.

Long overdue

Calling the Nobel Prize his life's biggest achievement, Heck said: "I'm certainly happy I was able to do something that was of use. Many people work for years and don't even find anything that's useful."

Socorro thought the award for her husband, her senior by 20 years, had been long overdue. For the past two years, she said she had been praying every week at the Baclaran and Quiapo churches, hoping the recognition for her husband would finally come.

She cried upon receiving Wednesday's surprise call from Stockholm.

"You never know. Maybe he would have been long gone from this earth and still he hadn't gotten the award (Malay mo, wala na siya sa daigdig, hindi pa niya nakukuha)," Socorro said half in jest in Filipino.

No change in lifestyle

"Wow, I really haven't heard any figure before," Heck said when reporters told him he could receive up to $500,000 (or almost P24 million). "I haven't thought about it. I'm not going to spend it all on one place for sure."

"The problem is they always give it to you when you're too old," he quipped.

For Socorro, the amount would not change the way they live. But at least they could use part of the money to pay their P11,000 monthly rental.

The thought of buying their own house doesn't appeal to Socorro, who said they wouldn't have anyone to leave it to, anyway, if the time came for them to go.

"We will not change our lifestyle. We will save it for rainy days... like if either of us would suddenly need surgery," she said.

Prize is forever

The Hecks both take medication for diabetes. She also needs regular medical checks for a heart condition.

"It's just money. The Nobel Prize will belong to him forever," she said.

Socorro has known how it is to live in style, enjoying luxuries. She has briefly lived in China and England with her husband, attending important high society affairs.

Now full-time retirees, the Hecks spend their days at home, he tending to his orchids and pet birds and she cooking his favorite steak.

He never got to like Filipino food, she said, and always had to have dinner with red wine.

WE'RE READY

From Page 12

ing P600 million for them," he said.

Another P30 million was saved from an agriculture project involving the purchase of a spectrometer that he said was being sold for twice its price.

Mr. Aquino said he had deferred the defense department's purchase of helicopters being sold at P3.6 billion because it seemed that this was "overspecified to favor one company."

"All of these [savings] we returned to our treasury," he said.

He also said he had ordered the thorough study of an P18.5-billion project approved by the Arroyo administration and aimed at dredging and cleaning up Laguna de Bay.

He said he had found out that the soil to be dug from Laguna de Bay would still be dumped within the area, and that the approval of the contract did not undergo the right process.

"I want to add that we have been reviewing this project since last week but until now there are still people arguing for it," he added.

Other achievements

Mr. Aquino also said he had:

■ Improved weather forecasting by Pagasa, with weathermen now giving substantial bulletins and hourly updates.

■ Done away with the old system of continuing projects without monitoring whether it was actually reasonable to do so.

■ Set in place a zero-based budgeting system where ineffective agencies would no longer be funded.

He said this was why he had transferred the funds for his predecessor's Kilos Asenso and Kalayaang Barangay programs to programs proven helpful to the people.

■ Provided a bigger budget next year for the health, education and social welfare departments in order to give the poor more health insurance and build more classrooms.

■ Strengthened the conditional cash transfer program so that it would help from 1 million families this year to 2.3 million families in 2011.

The President said more jobs awaited the people as a result of the $2.4 billion in investments he reaped from his recent trip to the United States. He said the investments would provide 43,600 new jobs.

Public-private partnerships

He said more jobs would come from the public-private partnerships set up to encourage investors to help expand the LRT lines and build more airports and more schools. He said bidding for these projects would start next month.

Mr. Aquino said the people's confidence in the government helped bring about the same confidence from the international community, as shown by the recent grant of $430 million by Millennium Challenge Corp.

He said the Arroyo administration had applied twice for this grant but was rejected twice.

"But in our three months in office, this was approved," he said.

'Like crocodiles'

Without naming names, the President said his detractors were the same people who had caused problems for the nation.

He said that since he campaigned for president until today, many criticisms had been hurled at him, including the state of his hair.

"I think my being a bachelor is why I was not given a honeymoon," he added.

Mr. Aquino said his detractors apparently wanted to return the old system of governance, where they were "like crocodiles plundering the coffers of the state."

"But we will continue the fight. We will not stop," he said.

Mr. Aquino said he believed the people were seeing the results of his efforts. He expressed elation over the recent Social Weather Station survey showing that 71 percent of the respondents were satisfied with his performance.

"This is my continuing vow: We will not stop. As more people join us on the straight road, our task of righting wrongs becomes easier," he said.

Human rights

The President received loud applause from his audience. But not everyone was equally enthused.

Human rights groups lamented his administration's lack of concrete action to end abuses in its first 100 days.

In a statement posted on its website, the New York-based Human Rights Watch said Mr. Aquino's actions on human rights "fell short," thus "jeopardiz[ing] his stated commitment to justice."

It urged him to fulfill his campaign promises to abolish private armies, give justice to abuses and end impunity by police and military forces.

Human Rights Watch also said three journalists and 16 activists had been killed since June 30, the day Mr. Aquino took office. "In the last 100 days, there have been no convictions for the hundreds of politically motivated killings over the past decade in which the security forces were implicated," it said.

Amnesty International Philippines said Mr. Aquino had made "thoughtful comments" on human rights but needed to address directly the issues he inherited from the past administration.

Dr. Aurora Parong, director of Amnesty International Philippines, said in a statement that her group sent Mr. Aquino before his inauguration five recommendations to address human rights in his first 100 days.

Parong said the administration "took some steps forward" in only two of the recommendations—instilling human rights protection in governance by appointing Leila de Lima as justice secretary, and protecting and supporting people displaced by armed conflict by renewing the peace process in Mindanao and announcing aid to the displaced.

Among the Cabinet officials spotted in the auditorium were Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, Secretaries Jose de Jesus (transportation), Dinky Soliman (social welfare), Rosalinda Baldoz (labor), Armin Luistro (education), and Gregory Domingo (trade), and Peace Adviser Teresita Deles. ***(With a report from Alcuin Papa)***

IMMIGRATION LAW

Bruce L. Mailman
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8 homeless kids winning game of life

By SUNSHINE LICHAUCO DE LEON
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Philippine team that took part in the 8th Annual Homeless World Cup's (HWC) international football competition in Brazil pose for a team photo.

MANILA, Philippines—When the Philippine team came home from the 8th Annual Homeless World Cup's (HWC) international football competition in Brazil, the Host Cup trophy they carried, stood for more than just football skills—it represented the hope now filling their hearts.

Although the eight young men representing their country had lived in extreme poverty all their lives, they left for Rio de Janeiro for the international tournament held September 19 to 26, having learned to dream again. And they returned knowing that sometimes, dreams really can come true.

This is the third year the Philippines has participated in the HWC (www.homelessworldcup.org), an annual event held in different cities around the world in order to call attention to the issue of homelessness.

All players must be homeless, marginally homeless, or a recovering addict in treatment. HWC founder Mel Young says in the website: "There are one billion homeless people in our world and that is unacceptable and unnecessary. We can fly to the moon, invent the Internet, we just need to focus on creating a healthy world where everyone has a home."

This year's Philippine team was chosen from tryouts organized by Urban Opportunities for Change Foundation in cooperation with local football associations.

Its members, aged 18-26, come from Negros, Laguna, Quezon, and Manila. Although they have homes, they live in squatter areas, and spend the most of their time on the streets.

All team members have lived and trained together since June, and were given full-time construction jobs, allowing them to earn money to send home to their families while training.

Team of brothers

Team coach and project director Rudy del Rosario, or "Coach Rudy," describes the effect of three months of intensive, three-hours-per-day training: "The team is one big family, [they're] like brothers. Instead of weight training they carried sand and cement. For them it was like a regular job and it promoted team building."

Arranging team visits to each person's dwelling is another effective strategy. Bill Shaw, co-founder of Urban Opportunities for Change says: "As the players saw the situations of their teammates they became more confident and less insecure about their own situation. They bonded."

The commitment, discipline, and focus that each player had to develop to train for this event, has had an enormous impact on each of them.

Before joining the team, Leopoldo Aragon, 19, was a high school dropout who was into street drugs and drank regularly at home with his father. During one of the team trips, he spent a few days back at home.

Coach Rudy recounts: "When [Leopoldo] was offered a drink, he said, 'I don't drink anymore. I am an athlete.' His parents actually sent us a thank-you note for the changes in their son."

Self-confidence

Abdullah Pasion, 20, says football has given him self-confidence: "I can show my family and friends that I am doing something in my life; I have direction."

He adds, "My hero now is myself. I worked hard to become a member of this team and I am proud to represent my country. I am proud of myself."

Coach Rudy, who also coaches at the International School of Manila, is amazed at the kids' perseverance and determination: "Because they come from poverty, they give their all during training. They have a lot of heart. It's everything for them."

He adds: "I tell them they are already winners even before they get to Rio because of the transformation that has taken place."

Eight days in Rio

This year's eight-day tournament was held on Copacabana beach in Rio, where 51 nations competed for six different cups.

Watching the passion and skill with which the Philippine team played football, audiences worldwide never suspected they came from "basketball, and not football" country.

Winning eight consecutive games, they beat Croatia, South Korea, Sweden, Argentina, Germany, Finland, and Norway (twice). At the end of the competition, the Philippines ranked 25th out of 65 nations.

Their only losses were to football powerhouses Brazil, Chile, and Italy, two of which were on opening day. Brazil and Chile were in 1st and 2nd place.

No fear, 'always smiling'

Sensing that it was fear and not lack of skills that caused these defeats, Coach Rudy offered the team advice which restored their confidence and changed the course for the rest of the games.

"I told them the only way to play well is to overcome fear and to start enjoying the game. This is something I cannot teach them, they have to learn this themselves. If they can overcome fear in these games, they can also be successful in the game called life," he recounts.

Football teams from 48 participating countries lived in five hostels but the members ate meals together, allowing them to share more than just a passion for football.

The "always smiling" Filipino team made friends everywhere but forged special relationships with teams from Finland, Canada, Hong Kong, Uganda, and Sweden.

Members of the Philippine team even took it upon themselves to try and heal wounds from the August 23 hostage-taking incident in which eight Hong Kong tourists and their hostage-taker, a former policeman, ended up dead.

HK team manager Ho Wai Chi says, "We actually had a very good conversation with the Philippine team [whose members] apologized for the hostage crisis. This brought the two teams closer emotionally. We sat down and talked a lot about each other's background and poverty situation. We also gave them a lantern, which they liked very much."

To escape poverty cycle

HWC studies have shown that 70 percent of those who join the international tournament continue to change their lives in some way. As HWC founder Young says, "The HWC has created a level of change in homeless people not seen before. They move from the margins to the center of a city to a global stage, where they represent their country, stand proud and are cheered by thousands. You can't go back from that."

Members of the Philippine team stand to benefit from the ripple effect that competing in these games has given so many. The team members' individual stories may be different but they have one common goal: to finish their education so they can get jobs to escape the cycle of poverty.

Leopoldo Aragon, 19, the only non-high school graduate, will be tutored so he can take an accreditation test and go to college. Coach Rudy feels that with his football abilities, he can then get a college scholarship. Three other members have received sponsorships for their college tuition.

Keep the dream alive

Goalkeeper and team captain Tony Mark Arinal, 24, says his family had a good life when his brother was working as a seaman. But when his brother died, everything fell apart.

He says, "I felt like I was in prison. There was no hope. I was involved with gangs and carried a gun. I thought life was over."

Since being picked to represent his country abroad, his attitude has changed dramatically: "I had forgotten my dream of being a seaman. Now I can believe in it again. It's the only way I know to help my family."

Lexter Maravilla, 23, says, "Being on this team proves that poverty is not a hindrance to my playing, to my taking care of the country. This shows that football is a sport for everyone."

He continues, "I want to have a successful life. But I know it will depend on me. People can help but the change starts in me. I want others to know that by working hard there is a way out of poverty."

The level of support that the Filipinos have increasingly shown for the Philippine team is something that has left Shaw, co-founder of Urban Opportunities, in complete awe.

He summarizes: "This has not been a stand-alone project. This has been a country-wide partnership that has crossed political and social barriers. From the media to the businesses, to the government, there were stand-up people who made this happen. And this team is standing up."

Shaw stresses that the tournament is only the beginning of the change possible for each of them: "Aside from helping with schooling and jobs, Urban Opportunities is trying to develop a way so players can give something measurable back to their communities."

He suggests, "The idea of building a network of people giving back, by coaching and encouraging others, is the most effective way of building change."

Paying it forward

For Michael Quinlat, 24, the act of giving back came naturally.

One day he noticed Nathaniel, a 14-year-old boy who came from a poor family and was always drinking and smoking around the area the team lived in.

At Michael's suggestion, the team decided to "adopt" the boy. He was allowed to sleep and eat with them. He earned his keep as a ball boy during training.

Nathaniel says, "If I do something wrong, they tell me. They care for me like brothers. I have stopped doing bad things; I now talk to my mother."

When asked what made him reach out to someone else in need, Michael's answer comes straight from the heart: "I saw myself in Nathaniel. I want him to have another chance… to change his life."

Internet, social networking blamed for increased rape cases

By ABIGAIL KWOK
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Incidences of rape of women and children has marked an "alarming" increase in the first half of 2010, with authorities partly blaming social networking sites and the Internet.

The Philippine National Police Women's and Children's Protection Center (WCPC) reported that for the first six months this year, there were 1,724 cases of rape against children, with Calabarzon region registering the highest number of cases with 236.

For women, there were 490 reported rape cases in the first half this year, with Metro Manila registering the highest number of cases with 71.

WCPC director Chief Superintendent Yolanda Tanigue said the current data was already over 50 percent of the data for 2009. Throughout the entire year of 2009, there were 3,018 rape cases against children and 762 rape cases against women.

The latest case that gained national attention was the gang rape of a volunteer nurse in Maguindanao. The victim still remains confined at the hospital while police arrested seven people in the crime.

Tanigue said children were raped as young as nine years old. While in the previous years, incidences of incest were high, police said the trend this year involved rape of strangers.

Tanigue attributed this to the boom of social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter.

"The popularity of these websites has a big effect on rape cases. Most of the rape cases are connected with Facebook and even texting," she said Friday, at the sidelines of the PNP's celebration of Children's Month this October.

The official said that sex predators would find their prey on Facebook. Predators usually pose as someone with the same age as the target and during meet-ups, or "eyeballs," they attack the victim.

"These incidents are very alarming," Tanigue said, adding that most of the suspects are out-of-school youth.

Police have advised parents to protect their children against these sexual predators.

"If your children are going home late, make sure to have a trusted adult accompany them. Children and women should also avoid dark places," she added.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Former 'Wowowee' host won't show court TV5 contract

By JULIE M. AURELIO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA. Philippines—Former "Wowowee" host Willie Revillame has refused to show his contract with TV5 to a Quezon City court, saying ABS-CBN cannot compel him to produce a "privileged" document whose contents cannot be revealed.

Revillame

In his reply to ABS-CBN's petition filed before Judge Luisito Cortez of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 85, Revillame accused his former employer of going on a "fishing expedition" to back up its counterclaim against him.

"The [document] that the motion seeks to be produced contains and provides for a nondisclosure clause, which thereby exempts it from the reach of ABS-CBN's motion," Revillame said.

He added that he was prohibited by the nondisclosure clause to reveal the contract to any third party, including ABS CBN, and that his former employer had no right to demand to see it.

According to him, the contract involves a third person—TV5—which is not a party to the instant case, referring to his petition to have the court affirm the termination of his contract with his old network.

Irrelevant, immaterial

"The [document which is the] subject of ABS-CBN's motion has no relevance or materiality to the instant case …. Consequently, the motion must be denied," Revillame told the court.

In August, he asked the court to compel ABS-CBN to award him P11 million in damages for the rescission of his contract with the TV network.

In its defense, ABS-CBN claimed that he violated the behavioral provisions of his contract when he threatened to resign if network officials refused to fire another talent, Jobert Sucaldito, who had criticized him.

Last month, the network filed a countersuit, asking the court to order Revillame to pay P426 million in damages for breach of contract and P20 million each for moral damages, exemplary damages and attorney's fees.

National Artist award for Comedy King

Roderick Paulate proudly told me about one of his main projects as a new councilor of Quezon City.

"I strongly support a resolution introduced by Councilor Jesus Suntay urging the National Commission for Culture and the Arts to declare Tatay Dolphy as National Artist," said Dick.

"I rendered a speech about the overwhelming contribution and achievements of Tatay as the King of Comedy. The resolution was passed by the 18th Quezon City Council unanimously. It's high time the NCCA picks it up because it's the wish of the whole industry. Dapat ngayon na gawin while active pa si Tatay Dolphy."

DOLLYWOOD
By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Tito Dolphy deserves nothing less. And someday soon, Dick himself ought to be elevated to the National Artist level, too. I would crown them both if only I could.

■■■

I was so touched when Tetchie Agbayani told me that she hardly attends parties but since it was my birthday celebration, she put an end to her hibernation period for one night.

She sent me this text message before my party: "I'm going solo. I'm a bit nervous but excited. I might be out of place. It's been a while since I last socialized."

I replied: "You're so cute! How can someone like you be OP? You're always a stand-out!"

It's strange that someone as gorgeous as Tetchie would be dateless. "My BF of 16 years stays out of the limelight," she explained. "We like to keep it that way so we have privacy. At mahirap na. Jackpot na ako sa kaniya. Baka masilat pa (laughs)!"

If Tetch is lucky with her BF, he's even luckier to have her.

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com

It's a boy for Juday and Ryan

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The mother of actress Judy Ann Santos, Carol Santos, disclosed on Thursday that her daughter gave birth to a baby boy after a fast and relatively easy delivery.

"She was brought to the hospital (Asian Hospital in Alabang, Muntinlupa) at 11 a.m. and by 5:51 p.m., she had already given birth," related Mommy Carol, as she is known in show biz. "I had just arrived at the hospital when the baby boy came out."

In an earlier interview, Ryan Agoncillo, husband of Judy Ann, or Judai as she is known, told the Inquirer that his wife was thoroughly prepared for the delivery and motherhood.

"She took yoga and breastfeeding classes. She took birthing classes, too. She didn't want to go through a Caesarean delivery," Agoncillo said. "I sometimes would sit in in her classes."

Her daughter gave birth normally, Mommy Carol told the Inquirer in a phone interview Thursday.

So confident was Judy Ann about a trouble-free delivery, Agoncillo said, that she also planned to have an audio-video home entertainment system installed in the delivery room. "She wanted to watch movies while giving birth."

Mommy Carol said her daughter didn't get to watch movies in the delivery room, though.

The couple named the baby boy Juan Luis, nicknamed Lucho. "Or little fighter," Agoncillo explained earlier. "He's named after my dad and me."

Judy Ann Santos and Ryan Agoncillo

Agoncillo's dad is named Luis Vicente, while the new father's real name is Christopher Lou.

"Juan is from their adopted daughter Yohanna or Joanna Louise," Mommy Carol explained.

Agoncillo said Judai also personally took charge of decorating the nursery. "It's her pet project. She collaborated with my stylist, Gerry Santos, who's also an interior designer."

The couple also made sure that adopted daughter Yohann, 6, was part of all the preparation. "We don't want her to feel jealous of the baby. We want her to be part of the excitement," Agoncillo said.

Mommy Carol gushed: "We are all excited. Ryan's mom is here, too. The entire family is here at the hospital. The baby looks like Ryan, we're told. He's 'balbon' (hirsute). Judy Ann got to breastfeed the baby [last night]."

Filipino flight safety demo is YouTube hit

JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Flight attendants for a low-cost Philippine airline who dance to Lady Gaga to keep passengers from snoozing through an in-flight safety demonstration are the latest YouTube sensation.

A video of stewardesses performing a choreographed routine aboard a Cebu Pacific flight last week to demonstrate safety procedures has received more than 6.5 million hits after being posted on the popular video sharing website.

The Manila-based airline, known for holding party games and singing contests on its low-fare domestic and Asian flights, said Tuesday it resorted to dancing stewardesses to draw more passenger attention to its in-flight safety reminders.

"People hardly pay attention to the safety demo on the ground," Cebu Pacific Vice President for marketing Candice Iyog said. "The airline was very thrilled with the outcome."

Three stewardesses in pastel shirts and khaki skirts danced away to Lady Gaga's hit "Just Dance" along a narrow A-320 passenger cabin aisle last Thursday to teach passengers emergency procedures in case of severe turbulence or a water landing.

A passenger on the one-hour flight from Manila to southern Butuan province recorded the spectacle and uploaded it to YouTube.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A video of stewardesses performing a choreographed routine aboard a Cebu Pacific flight to demonstrate safety procedures has received more than 6.5 million hits after being posted on the popular video sharing website.

The video drew acclaim and criticisms.

"American Idol" host Ryan Seacrest was impressed and included the video on his website.

But a group of flight attendants from the flag-carrier Philippine Airlines frowned on the in-flight show, saying it was demeaning and undignified.

Left-wing legislator Teddy Casino said that while the dance routine may have captured passenger attention "it was obviously difficult to intently listen and hear the safety instructions because of the loud music."

But the airline was elated and has decided to continue the flight show.

"We'd like to spread the culture of fun — and safety," Iyog told The Associated Press.

Crew members do regular pre-flight safety demonstrations — then follow up with the musical version when the plane reaches cruising altitude, she said.

In the video, the flight crew members are shown dancing animatedly while donning yellow life vests and oxygen masks and blowing emergency whistles. They turn around and spread their arms to point to emergency exits.

At show's end, the passengers erupt into applause.

It is not the first time an unusual Philippine dance routine has proved a hit on the Internet.

Several years ago, the central Cebu provincial prison warden organized hundreds of inmates to dance to Michael Jackson's songs. Prison officials and organizers said the project was part of efforts to increase attendance at exercise sessions and help prepare inmates for release.

Since it first appeared in 2007, the jail dance video has recorded 44.5 million hits and turned the little-known jail into a tourist attraction.

Maharlika – Opinyon

Immorality

Miriam santiago got her facts wrong, says Archbishop Oscar Cruz. Atong Ang is not into jueteng, he is into jai-alai. He is not a jueteng lord, he is a jueteng scourge since jueteng competes with his favorite vice.

Earlier, Cruz's group, Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, criticized the Small Town Lottery for promoting jueteng instead of killing it. The STL is the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office's answer to jueteng, a perfectly legal and government-controlled operation. All it has really done, Krusadang Bayan says, is to strengthen jueteng because of a faulty system that allows franchise holders to remit only 10 percent of total earnings to the government. In effect, the STL merely fronts for jueteng.

The archbishop is a sterling person and his crusade to rid this world of corruption from jueteng is praiseworthy. But my question is: What on earth is the difference between jai-alai, STL and jueteng?

Every time I ask that question, I get the answer: Well, jai-alai and STL are legal and jueteng is not. Which in fact only raises the question: Why on earth are jai-alai and STL legal while jueteng is not?

That's what bowls me over about all this. Not least the use of other forms of gambling, such as STL, to stamp out jueteng. What makes jueteng so especially evil it has to be stamped out and the others not so? What makes jueteng so immoral, so disruptive, so much a scourge of humanity it has to be wiped off the face of the earth and the others not so? Why is the group called Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng and not Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Sugal?

In fact, why do people assume this state of affairs as though it were the most natural thing in the world? What is the difference between STL and jueteng? What is the difference between off-track betting, which is the favorite haunt of tricycle drivers near where I live, with them adding drinking to gambling while at it, and jueteng? What is the difference between the bingo parties, which the parishes themselves sponsor to raise funds, the mahjongg that takes place in porches and yards in plain view of passersby, or the pusoy that goes on in wakes, with real dead or rented corpses, and jueteng?

There's The Rub
By CONRADO DE QUIROS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

All of them are forms of gambling. All of them involve laying out sums of money in the hope that the combination of numbers printed on one's ticket is pulled out by whatever it is that pulls these things out—a horse race, an exciting game from Spain, a not very exciting spinning of numbered balls. All of them involve wasting time and resources, fueling spousal disputes, reducing the indio to ignorance and sloth, vices Jose Rizal railed about in his time.

In fact the only quality that distinguishes jueteng from the others is the very extrinsic one of its being more popular than the others, being more widespread than the others, being more prevalent than the others. And the reason that is so is that it pays better, or offers better odds. And the reason that is so is that it is run by gambling lords who are able to offer those terms because it is extremely profitable. And the reason that is so is that, like alcohol during Prohibition in the United States, it is illegal.

You make it legal, you make jueteng just like the others. You make it legal, you stamp it out in a manner of speaking.

The fact that no one, priest or layman, is complaining about the other forms of gambling, indeed the fact that everyone, Church-based or State-based, seems perfectly willing to accept the other forms of gambling, must suggest that there is really no moral argument against jueteng. If gambling is morally wrong, then why militate against one form of gambling and not against all forms of gambling?

Frankly, it astonishes me why we have to go through the tortuous and torturous route of spreading STL to stamp out jueteng, which is really just substituting one form of gambling for another. If the argument is that STL is legal and jueteng is not, then why on earth not make jueteng legal as well? You make it legal, you stop the bribes. You make it legal, you abolish the gambling lords. You make it legal, you regulate it. Same as STL.

Like I said last time, gambling is like cigarettes and alcohol. Like them, you may, and ought, to discourage it. But like them, you may not, and ought not, to outlaw it. Outlawing it will do more harm than good—as we are seeing right now with jueteng.

In any case, banning it, or some forms of it, is futile. The only form of gambling you should really ban is Russian roulette, and you won't be able to punish the guilty anyway—they'll be busy being dead. The only thing that will really stop gambling, or curb it, is not law, it is education. The poor are naturally prone to gambling because they are uneducated. You are uneducated, you will not want to read a book, you will want to play pusoy. You are uneducated, you will not want to go to the columns section of the Inquirer, you will want to go to the "hot tips" section of a tabloid, or consult Madame Auring on the numerical interpretations of dreams. You are uneducated, you will not want to contemplate "Waiting for Godot," you will want to indulge jueteng for luck.

Indeed the poor are naturally prone to gambling because their very poverty makes of their lives a daily gamble. The predisposition is there. The instinct is there. Gambling is what a family does when it refuses to leave the foothills of Mt. Mayon when it is about to blow up, when it pitches shanties that jut out on creeks that swell each time it rains, when it allocates the children to different destinations: the brightest to school, the prettiest to a beerhouse, the toughest to a gang and a life of crime. They are gambling, with far higher stakes than they'll ever bet in jueteng.

That's the real immorality of it.

EDITORIAL

On the right path

After 100 days of the new administration, everyone seems ready to grade President Aquino, with all too predictable results. Leftist politicians and activists who backed a loser in the May elections have given him a failing mark. Retired Archbishop Oscar Cruz, who claims there has been a resurgence in the illegal numbers game he has dedicated himself to fighting, gave him a grade of C. His former colleagues in the Senate gave him passing marks, with even opposition Sen. Joker Arroyo conceding that despite the "inadequacies and unimpressive performance" of his Cabinet, Mr. Aquino "unqualifiedly deserves high marks because the enormous trust and faith of the people in him remain steadfast."

However, Mr. Aquino, who has been complaining that his critics never gave him the traditional "honeymoon," can set aside all those reviews, whether damning or flattering. The all-important grade, the one that really matters, is that given by the Filipino people, and what the President got was higher than just a passing mark. The Social Weather Stations survey conducted from September 24 to 27 showed 71 percent of respondents expressing satisfaction with the way Mr. Aquino was running the government, with 11 percent saying they were not satisfied. His "net satisfaction" rating of 60 percent was not the highest that a new president scored (Fidel Ramos got 66 percent), but it was still "very good" according to the SWS system of rating.

Not bad for an administration that got off to a shaky start with its very first order terminating the services of thousands of middle-level bureaucrats (later recalled and revised) and shamed the nation with the clumsy and inept police rescue attempt of Hong Kong tourists that ended with nine people dead. With these twin embarrassments plus Cruz's jueteng exposé dominating the news for most of Mr. Aquino's first 100 days, it is a wonder he managed to maintain a high public approval rating.

Maybe the people are more patient and understanding than the President's political foes. Maybe they did not expect the administration to actually hit the ground running, aware as they were of the many land mines laid by his predecessor. Or maybe they knew nobody comes to the presidency with all the experience and expertise needed to make it run smoothly and efficiently right from the very beginning, and they were willing to give Mr. Aquino enough time to learn.

But Senator Arroyo is right: the trust and faith in Mr. Aquino remain steadfast and strong. This is most evident in the business sector where entrepreneurs appear very eager to help the government push economic growth not only with their ideas but with actual investments. As a result, the stock market has been scaling historic highs and the economy has been growing at a rate that has surprised everyone who keeps tabs on such things, including the government's economic managers.

If the first 100 days is a time for setting directions, the administration seems to be on the right path, at least as far as fulfilling the two main things Mr. Aquino promised during the elections: stamping out corruption and easing poverty. As the President pointed out yesterday, the government was able to save billions of pesos by canceling or suspending several questionable contracts in the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Department of Transportation and Communications, the Department of National Defense and other offices. The Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs have been filing charges against big-time tax evaders and smugglers, respectively. Several agencies, like Tesda, have been sifting through the records to find out other shady transactions. The Truth Commission is about to start looking into corrupt deals and practices in high places during the Arroyo administration. And other agencies are getting into the act, with the Commission on Audit now disclosing irregularities almost every day, and even the Office of the Ombudsman exhibiting newfound zeal to go after grafters.

In the fight against poverty, the administration has employed the most powerful weapon in its arsenal: the budget. Thus, the allocation for the Conditional Cash Transfer program has been increased dramatically, along with the appropriations for education and health.

But having laid out the direction, the administration must now proceed to deliver on its promises. It must start showing results soon, or the faith and hope that the Filipino people have reposed on Mr. Aquino will burn out fast.

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Damaso: fact and fiction

It's good to know that Rizal and his novels remain part of life in 21st-century Philippines. When Carlos Celdran disrupted an ecumenical service in the Manila Cathedral recently, he wore a black suit and hat to resemble the "Martyr of Bagumbayan." Those who mistook him for "Mr. Magoo" guesting on an episode of the "Addams Family" recognized Rizal as soon as Celdran flashed a sign that read "Damaso." Now that the battle lines have been drawn, I must state here that I support the passage of the Reproductive Health (RH) bill that has been pickled in Congress for years. Perhaps there is now light at the end of the tunnel for many pending laws, including the Freedom of Information Act, the RH bill and the much-needed amendments to the Flag Law.

In the past half-century, the Catholic Church has come out strongly in public life to oppose two measures in Congress. The first was the Rizal Law (Republic Act 1425) that made the reading of Rizal's novels compulsory for all college students. The second is the RH bill. The Rizal Law was passed in 1957; millions of students have read the "Noli Me Tangere" and the "El Filibusterismo," but they did not lose their faith. Today students read a "simplified" "Noli" and "Fili" in high school such that when they get to college, they are too lazy to read the novel in full. This explains why our stereo-type images of Damaso and Sisa are so different from what Rizal actually wrote. Sisa, for example, is a staple in noontime game shows. She is dressed in tattered clothes, her hair disheveled, her eyes livid as she wails, "Basiliooo! Crispiiiin!" She laughs and cries alternately. We owe this caricature to Fides Cuyugan-Asensio who played Sisa in the opera version of the "Noli." Open your books and you will see that Sisa is unhinged, something is wrong with her, but she is quiet, she is not raving mad.

Looking Back
By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Now we come to Padre Damaso Verdolagas, who is often said to be the "villain" of the "Noli." Is he? Really? All right, he was rude to Ibarra. He ordered the corpse of Ibarra's father taken out of the Christian cemetery and transferred to the Chinese cemetery. He turns out to be the father of Maria Clara. Open Wikifilipinas, which trumpets itself as the one-stop site for everything Philippine, and you will find this:

"According to Jose Rizal's description, Padre Damaso is a Franciscan friar that acts as the curate or the official minister of the book's fictional town, San Diego. He was described as a fat, ugly priest with an extremely large belly. He was known to be lazy, selfish, proud, cruel, judgmental, malicious-minded and has cravings for beautiful women.

"Padre Damaso was the self-righteous curate of the fictional San Diego church and town. He used his power to get what he desired. He was notorious and deceitful. His unhealthy physical appearance signified his laziness and excesses to everything that he wanted. It was he who raped Pia Alba, the wife of Don Santiago de los Santos, a local businessman.

"This made him the biological father of the conservative and pretty Maria Clara. His dirty secret was revealed. Due to this scandal, he was forcefully transferred to a different town. He was found dead during this transition without explanations."

Such loaded anti-clerical language in a website was used by students for their research. Where did we get the idea that Pia Alba was raped? Remember, Kapitan Tiago was an opium dealer and probably had no time for his wife who found solace in her spiritual adviser. Was Damaso really evil? Or was he just being an over-protective father who didn't approve of his daughter's boyfriend?

In the opening chapters of the "Noli," Rizal described Padre Damaso as "a Franciscan, talks much and gesticulates more. In spite of the fact that his hair is beginning to turn gray, he seems to be preserving well his robust constitution, while his regular features, his rather disquieting glance, his wide jaws and herculean frame give him the appearance of a Roman noble in disguise and make us involuntarily recall one of those three monks of whom Heine tells in his 'Gods in Exile,' who at the September equinox in the Tyrol used to cross a lake at midnight and each time places in the hand of the poor boatman a silver piece, cold as ice, which left him full of terror.

"But Fray Damaso is not so mysterious as they were. He is full of merriment, and if the tone of his voice is rough like that of a man who has never had occasion to correct himself and who believes that whatever he says is holy and above improvement, still his frank, merry laugh wipes out this disagreeable impression and even obliges us to pardon his showing to the room bare feet and hairy legs that would make the fortune of a Mendieta in the Quiapo fairs." (Derbyshire translation)

Rizal is almost fond of Damaso. Read the novel to see the real villain: the evil friar is not Damaso but his replacement Father Salvi who lusts after Maria Clara and engineers an accident that would have killed Ibarra during the laying of the cornerstone of his school. Failing in that, he instigates a rebellion and implicates Ibarra. The fat, sex-starved, corrupt friar is not Rizal's Fray Damaso, but Graciano Lopez Jaena's "Fray Botod."

One can argue that the characters of Rizal's novels have taken on a life of their own in our consciousness. Well, it's a pity that we have a national hero who wrote a lot for a nation that does not read.

Maharlika–Samu't Sari

BAKING CLASS CLARISSA V. DAVID

Students of the Basic Baking, Bread Making, and Cake Decorating Course Batch 5 receive their certificates from officials of the Philippine Consulate and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office during their graduation ceremony last Oct. 3.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Ofelia S. Lopez receives a token of appreciation from representatives of the Basic Baking, Bread Making and Cake Decorating Course Batch 5. Lopez served as the class instructor.

SALUD ON SAIPAN

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Filipino fashion designer Rene Salud hangs out with friends at DFS Galleria during a recent trip to Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The staff of @hair.comb in Garapan pose with Filipino fashion designer Rene Salud.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Consul General Medardo Macaraig addresses members of the graduating class of the Basic Baking, Bread Making and Cake Decorating Course Batch 5.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Marlon Regaton, class president of the Basic Baking, Bread Making and Cake Decorating Course Batch 5, talks in behalf of the group last Oct. 3.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Jojo Sotto holds his certificate of appreciation from the class representative.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Labor officer Rey Tayag shares a light moment with the graduating students of Basic Baking, Bread Making and Cake Decorating Course Batch 5.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Have a rockin' birthday Jadine, who will be celebrating her birthday, Oct. 10. "Wishing you a fun-filled weekend. You're an amazing woman and friend who deserves the best in life. Cheers to another awesome year."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Young Style

Utah teens hit by lightning said to be recovering

By CRISTINA SILVA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A trauma doctor treating one of two Utah teenagers struck by lightning said Wednesday the boy will likely recover but could be left with burn scars across his body.

Alex Lambson, 17, was in an induced coma at University Medical Center, where he was being treated for severe internal and external injuries.

He could improve enough to be taken off life support as soon as Thursday, said Dr. Meena Vohra, chief of pediatrics.

Lambson and his friend Christopher Dane Zdunich, also 17, were leaving Snow Canyon High School in Santa Clara, Utah, near St. George, when they were struck, said Kaleen Talley, Lambson's mother.

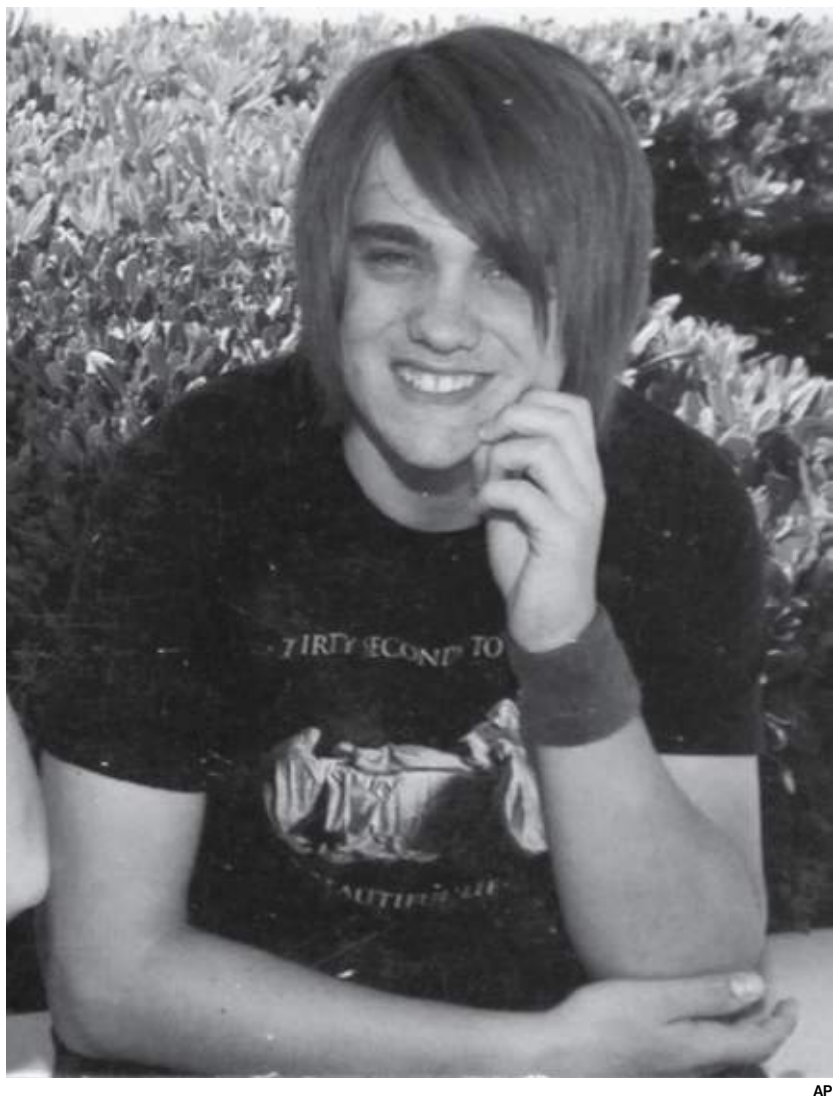
Dozens of teenagers watched in horror as the boys slumped to the ground under the mostly clear sky—their clothes singed from the bolt, she said.

An administrator, resource officer and others rushed to move the teenagers inside the school, where they performed CPR until an emergency crew arrived.

Talley rushed to be with her son at a local hospital.

"It's very bizarre," said Talley, 41, a marketing representative. "I can't believe this happened."

Zdunich, a junior, was awake and responding to family members on Wednesday, the Washington County School District reported in a statement. His parents declined to speak with reporters.



AP

This photo provided by family during a news conference Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2010, in Las Vegas, shows Alex Lambson when he was 15-years-old.

Lambson was in the induced coma to help him handle discomfort and pain from the burns, Vohra said.

Being hit by lightning can be fatal because the heart can stop beating, blocking the flow of oxygen to muscles and vital organs, the doctor said.

"Those first few minutes are very crucial," Vohra said.

The quick response by the high school faculty likely saved the lives of the teens and sparred them extensive brain damage, Vohra said.

The lightning burned through the clothing of the boys.

"They handed me a bag of smoldering ashes basically," said David Talley, Lambson's stepfather.

It appeared Lambson had a bad sunburn on his face, his mother said, adding harsher burns covered his neck, chest, arms, legs and back.

Zdunich and Lambson were initially taken to a St. George hospital but were later flown to Las Vegas.

Hours after the mishap, classmates gathered in shock at the St. George hospital.

"For them to have been there, for them to have seen it, it was pretty traumatic," David Talley said.

A handful of friends made the drive to Las Vegas to visit the boys later.

Sam Lieske, 18, a Snow Canyon High School graduate, said he often met the two teens and other friends for Friday night video game tournaments and marathon viewing of the medical TV show "House."

Lieske said the boys' friends weren't sure what to make of the lightning strike.

"It's weird," he said.

After graduation this spring, Lambson had plans to join the Air Force.

Zdunich and Lambson are best friends who met on the school debate team, and Lambson, a senior, is the captain. The boys are also on the cross country team together.

"They hang out in my room all the time," Snow Canyon debate coach Delsy Nielson said. "They almost live there."

The school district planned to provide a trauma counseling team for Snow Canyon High School students.

Arden Lambson, 44, said he wasn't concerned that his oldest son might have scars from the burns.

"We just hope he wakes up and he is our straight-A student again," he said.

AP

From left, Dr. Meena Vohra, left, of University Medical Center, David Talley, his wife Kaleen Talley and Arden Lambson answer questions, Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2010, in Las Vegas about their son, Alex Lambson, who was struck by lightning near St. George Utah on Tuesday.

Mich. teen kills 448-lb black bear with arrow

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. (AP)—A 17-year-old Michigan girl began her big game hunting career with a bang—or rather a whoosh—by killing a 448-pound black bear with a bow and arrow from 16 yards away.

High school senior Jessica Olmstead of Battle Creek shot the bear during a hunting trip last month in Oba, Ontario.

She told the Battle Creek Enquirer for a story published Tuesday that the bear was the first animal she killed with the new bow.

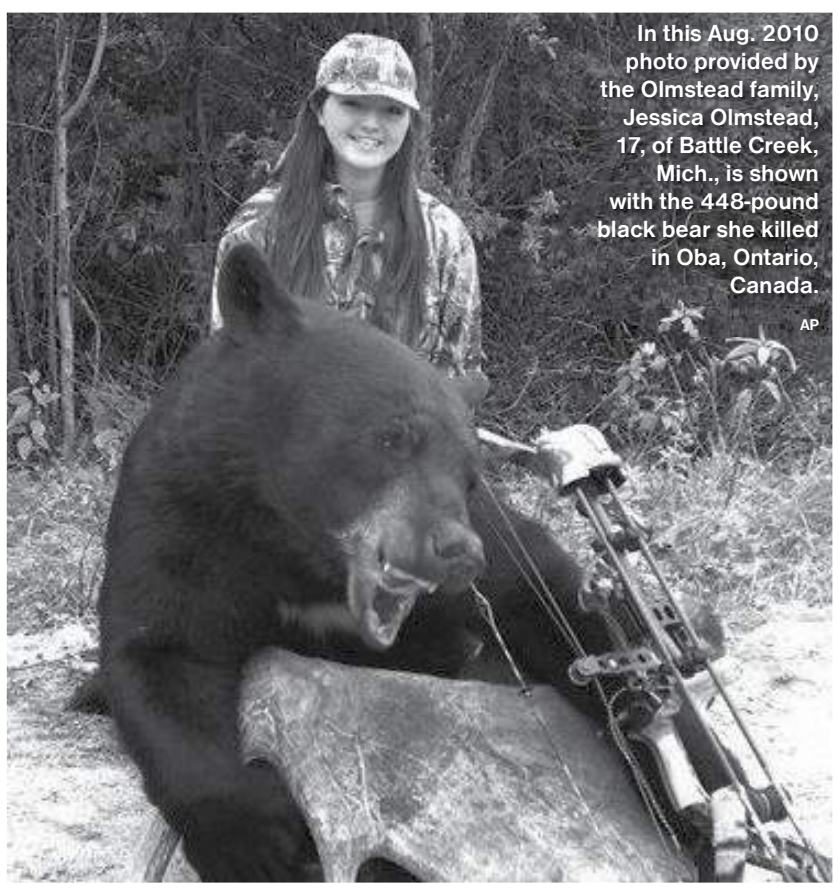
"As soon as my dad got it for me I was immediately comfortable and I was ready to use it the next day," Jessica said.

"When I go out hunting, it's really exciting," she said. "Whenever I see a bear I just want to go at it. When you're hunting, your heart is racing, your blood is pumping, and you feel that adrenaline rush. I really love to hunt."

Her father, Tim Olmstead, told The Associated Press that his daughter eats the animals she hunts, including the bear, and does not kill just for fun.

He told the paper he's been teaching others to hunt for more than 30 years and that he's never had a student pick up the fundamentals as quickly as his daughter.

"I'm not just saying this because she's my daughter," he said. "But she's probably one of the best listeners I've every taught. With the bear she showed a lot of patience. She tracked the bear, killed it, and gutted it like a pro."



In this Aug. 2010 photo provided by the Olmstead family, Jessica Olmstead, 17, of Battle Creek, Mich., is shown with the 448-pound black bear she killed in Oba, Ontario, Canada.

AP

Jessica's hunting exploits range beyond the wilderness. Earlier this month, she caught a 20-pound salmon in Lake Michigan, near Holland.

"Fishing is a lot like hunting in a lot of ways," Olmstead said. "But I think that with fishing, it takes a lot more strength and a lot more patience to be successful."

Jimmy the painting chimp draws hordes to Rio zoo

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—A retired circus chimpanzee is the Cezanne of simians, drawing crowds to a Brazilian zoo to watch him paint. The 26-year-old chimp called Jimmy has been producing surprisingly lovely paintings each day for three weeks at the Niteroi Zoo.

Trainer Roched Seba said Monday Jimmy doesn't like the toys and other diversions that other chimps enjoy. So three weeks ago, Seba introduced him to painting after reading about animals in zoos elsewhere that enjoyed a little canvas time.

Temperamental as great artists can be, Jimmy at times declines to paint if his cage is surrounded by too many gawkers.

But for at least 30 minutes a day, he carefully dips his brush into plastic paint containers and uses broad, bold strokes to create his art.

AP

Jimmy, a 26-year-old chimpanzee paints on a cardboard at a zoo in Niteroi, Brazil, Monday, Sept. 20, 2010.

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A FAMOUS PROVERB is hidden in the above frame. Find it by reading every other letter as you go around it clockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

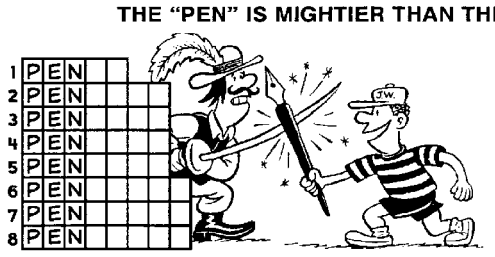
Answer: Starting with the "Y" in the center of the left rail: "You cannot have your cake and eat it."

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

Illustrated by David Coulson

THE "PEN" IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD!



You'll be able to shout "touché" if you can complete our puzzle. In the grid shown here we have room for eight words, each of which begins with "PEN." Using the following hints, see if you can find them before our duel is finished.

1. British pennies.
2. Hanging jewelry.
3. A flightless bird.
4. A writer may use it.
5. Displayed on a ship.
6. A definite liking for.
7. "The Pit and the ___."
8. A type of star.

Answers: 1. Pence. 2. Pendant. 3. Penguin. 4. Penname. 5. Pennant. 6. Penchant. 7. Pendulum. 8. Pentacle (five-pointed).

DON'T "TRAIL" BEHIND! To solve this AlphaMath problem, you must replace the letters on the backpack with the digits 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 so that you will have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. Try to get the highest possible total.

Our Answer: B=1, A=6, C=4, K=9, P=5, H=7, I=2, E=8 (1649 + 5649 = 7298).

LINK-UPS! Here's a list of 12 short words, divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from one word in the left column to one word in the right.

1 DRUB	ACES
2 NOT	RED
3 EARS	BED
4 MEN	RATE
5 LACE	ION
6 KIND	HOT

Answers: Drubbed, notion, earshot, menaces, lacerate, kindred.

There's a bear

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I moved into a home in rural Vermont this summer and was rather terrified one morning when I walked out into my backyard and found myself face to face with a bear. I ran back in the house, and it trundled off into the woods. Later, my neighbors told me the bear is well-known in the area and that some residents, including my home's former owner, used to feed it. What can I do to keep it out of my yard?—Jessica, via e-mail

DEAR JESSICA: Bears can be a real nuisance—although in many places it's human encroachment that exacerbates the problem—and when well-meaning humans feed them, they become more than a nuisance: They're then a danger.

Let the Vermont Fish & Wildlife office (http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/) near you know about the bear. Unlike some states and urban areas, the office may not be able to come out and capture or kill the bear, but they will give you advice on how to reduce the risk of another surprise visit.

Meantime, follow these steps as well:

■ Don't leave garbage cans outdoors; store in a shed or garage and have a well-latched cover.

■ Don't place garbage on the curb the night before trash pickup.

■ Feed your pets indoors.

■ After a barbecue, clean the grill well. Store inside if possible.

■ If you have a bird feeder, empty it or take it inside for at least four weeks.

Keep in contact with your neighbors about the bear. If you or they continue to have problems, stay in contact with Vermont Fish & Wildlife. The USDA Animal Damage Control Unit is another resource (http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/).

■ ■ ■

Have a question about your pet? Contact Sam at ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more pet advice and resources at www.pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was Polish-born British novelist Joseph Conrad who made the following sage observation: "Being a woman is a terribly difficult task since it consists principally in dealing with men."

■ Contrary to popular belief, seagulls don't really explode if they eat Alka-Seltzer.

■ Pizza is one of the most popular foods around the world, but in other countries it doesn't always look the way it does when you order out here in the United States. For instance, in India you're likely to find toppings like pickled ginger, minced mutton and a kind of cottage cheese. Brazilians like green peas on their pizzas, Costa Ricans like coconut and Pakistanis favor curry. A popular pizza in Japan has potato, bacon and mayonnaise, while eel and squid also are common toppings.

■ If you're in the mood to indulge yourself—and have the means to do it—you can vacation in the penthouse suite at Hotel Martinez in Cannes, France. At a rate of more than $35,000 per night, it's one of the world's most expensive hotel rooms.

■ An electronics shop in Seattle once advertised that it was selling stereos for "299 bananas." As it turns out, 30-some odd customers showed up to take advantage of the special—in a literal fashion. They each brought—you guessed it—299 actual bananas. The local zoo ended up being the beneficiary of all the extra produce.

■ The first state in the Union to declare Christmas an official legal holiday was Alabama, and it happened in 1836.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime."—Mark Twain

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MAGIC MAZE ● EUROPEAN COUNTRIES NOT IN THE EU

S N K I F D A X V T Q O V M J
H F C A Y M O L D O V A A A W
U R P N L S J Y N H T F I D D
B Z A X E V A I T I R N T N R
Q O M R K W R A C I O H A F U
D B B Z R A B A I D Y L O K S
W I V O M O N T E N E G R O S
A T N N S C D C R C A A C Q I
O N A N I L A N I K I B I H A
F S I T D M O C A N O M L C A
Z A Y S U R A L E B X W V A U

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Albania, Andorra, Belarus, Croatia, Iceland, Macedonia, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Ukraine, Vatican City

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	x		+		13
+		x		÷	
	+		x		10
x		–		x	
	–		x		5
27		13		15	

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 2 3 5 6 7 8 9

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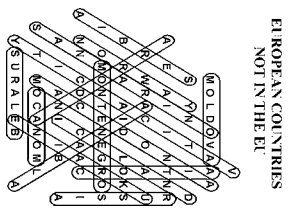
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

13	6	+	7	x	1
	÷		x		+
10	2	x	3	+	2
	x		–		x
5	5	x	8	–	9
	15		13		27

Easy zucchini soup is hit with kids

"Go pick anything that's bigger than your arm!" says Becca Newhouse as 4-year-old son Ellis grabs a bucket and scampers off to the zucchini patch in their family garden. "If he sees a veggie that's too ripe, he chucks it over the fence to the chickens," she adds with a smile.

Becca, a 35-year-old professional fundraiser for the "Mississippi River Fund," and mom of Ellis and 14-month-old Phelan, knows firsthand that when kids dig in and help in the garden, the experience informs their eating habits. "Ellis actually asked for beets for lunch recently, a food he wouldn't touch if he saw them in the grocery store. He eats handfuls of flavorful lettuce, although he still hesitates on the chard," she admits.

Now that zucchini are in abundance, the nutritious squash will go from their plot to their plates in tempting presentations, whether grilled, baked, boiled, sauteed or hiding in a home-baked bread.

Even if you didn't "grow your own" this summer, you can provide a hands-on learning experience with your kids by taking a weekend jaunt to designated pick-your-own farms and orchards. Or, bike together to an urban farmer's market and check out the colorful displays. When you do, bring home plenty of zucchini, and try this mild zucchini soup. Since you don't have to peel this vegetable, the recipe goes together in minutes.

EASY ZUCCHINI SOUP

4 tablespoons butter
1 large onion, roughly chopped
4 cups chicken stock
5-6 medium-size zucchini (about 2 1/4 pounds)
1 1/2 teaspoons nutmeg
Salt to taste
1/2 cup half-and-half

1. Let your school-age child wash the zucchini and cut it into 1-inch chunks with a butter knife on a cutting board. Be sure ends are trimmed off.

2. Meanwhile, melt the butter in a large soup pot. Add onion and cook until the onions are soft but not brown, about 5 minutes.

3. Add stock and the zucchini. The broth should just cover the chunks. Add nutmeg and salt. Bring to a boil, stirring frequently. Lower heat, and simmer until zucchini is very soft, about 12-15 minutes.

4. Use an immersion hand blender to blend ingredients. Or, let soup cool (important!) and process in batches in a blender or food processor until smooth. Return the soup to the pot.

5. Stir in half-and-half, season with more salt if you wish, and heat through. Serve in a mug or soup bowl with a sandwich and fresh fruit on the side. Makes 6-8 servings.

Note: Freezes well.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Life & Style

Mario Vargas Llosa wins Nobel literature prize

NEW YORK (AP)—Mario Vargas Llosa, the newest winner of the Nobel Prize in literature, has never found much honor in boundaries.

"Literature shouldn't be secluded, provincial or regional," the Peruvian author said in New York after Thursday's announcement in Sweden. "It should be universal, even if it has deep roots in one place."

The 74-year-old author and political activist, a charter member of the Latin American literary boom of the 1960s, has for decades been regarded as one of the world's greatest and most adventurous writers, an unpredictable and provocative mixer of literature and social consciousness in both his work and his life.

Artists are born dissenters—often, but not always, of the left. Like such recent Nobelists as Herta Mueller and Doris Lessing, Vargas Llosa is a dissenter from communism, a former party member who ran for president of Peru in 1990 as an advocate of privatization and remains a critic of leftist leaders such as Cuba's Fidel Castro and Venezuela's Hugo Chavez.

The author of more than 30 novels, plays and works of nonfiction, he is known for his expansive language, his alertness to the profound and the profane, and his fierce and dark disdain for tyranny. His books are not without magical touches, but he is more grounded, more a "realist" than fellow Nobel laureate and South American Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

"Vargas Llosa's style is a kind of baroque style—long sentences, complicated sentences. The writer in English closest to his style is William Faulkner, who influenced so many of the Latin American writers," says Edith Grossman, the English-language translator for novels by Vargas Llosa and Garcia Marquez.

AP

Nobel Laureate Mario Vargas Llosa attends a news conference Thursday, Oct. 7, 2010, in New York.

"He has a great range of styles and a great range of subjects, from comedies of manners to really profound political analysis. He is thought of as very political, but `The Notebooks of Don Rigoberto' (`Los Cuadernos de Don Rigoberto') is immensely funny and I don't think there's a political word in it."

In 1995, Vargas Llosa won the Cervantes Prize, the most distinguished literary honor in Spanish. He is the first South American winner of the $1.5 million Nobel Prize in literature since Colombia's Garcia Marquez in 1982, and the first Spanish-language writer to win since Mexico's Octavio Paz in 1990.

His best-known works include "Conversation in the Cathedral" and "The Green House."

Vargas Llosa's work covers personal and historical territory, especially political violence and oppression. "The War of the End of the World" dramatizes "The War of Canudos," the 19th-century standoff between the Brazilian military and rebellious settlers. He satirized the Peruvian armed forces in "Captain Pantoja and the Special Service" and took on Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo in "Feast of the Goat."

The Swedish Academy said it honored Vargas Llosa for mapping the "structures of power" and for his "trenchant images of the individual's resistance, revolt and defeat." Its permanent secretary, Peter Englund, called him "a divinely gifted storyteller."

"His books are often very complex in composition, having different perspectives, different voices and different time places," Englund said. "He is also doing it in a new way. He has helped evolve the art of the narration."

Vargas Llosa's work has been translated into more than 30 languages. Unlike the works of the vast majority of foreign-language writers, his books are widely available in English. As of Thursday afternoon, two of his books were in the top 50 on Amazon.com's best-seller list and were out of stock: "The Feast of the Goat" and "The War of the End of the World."

The publisher Picador announced that new printings are planned for 10 of his books. A new novel, "El Sueno del Celta" ("The Celt's Dream"), comes out in Spanish next month and is scheduled for an English-language release in 2012.

Filmgoers may know his name through "Tune in Tomorrow," an English-language adaptation of Vargas Llosa's "Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter" that starred Peter Falk, Keanu Reeves and Barbara Hershey.

His writing is celebrated throughout Latin America, but his shift right estranged him from much of the hemisphere's intellectual elite. He reportedly has not spoken in decades with Garcia Marquez, a former friend who remains close to Castro. He irritated his centrist friend Octavio Paz, the late Mexican Nobel literature laureate, by playfully referring to Mexico's political system—dominated at the time by a single party—as "the perfect dictatorship."

Vargas Llosa, still politically combative, recently helped win support for building a museum to the memory of the nearly 70,000 people killed in Peru's 1980-2000 war with Shining Path insurgents. When President Alan Garcia's government, presented with a $2.2 million donation from Germany, resisted the idea, Vargas Llosa lashed out, accusing the government of "a deep-rooted intolerance and lack of culture."

A frequent traveler who often lives abroad, Vargas Llosa has lectured and taught at universities in the U.S., South America and Europe, and is spending this semester at Princeton University in New Jersey. Another Nobel laureate and Princeton faculty member, Toni Morrison, said in a statement that giving him the prize was a "brilliant choice."

He debuted as an author in 1959 with the story collection "Los Jefes" ("The Cubs and Other Stories") and four years later rose to leadership of the "boom," or "new wave," of Latin American writers with his groundbreaking novel, "The Time of the Hero" ("La Ciudad de los Perros"), which builds on his experiences at the Peruvian military academy Leoncio Prado. (He later said the academy "was like discovering hell.")

The book won the Spanish Critics Award and the rage of Peru's military. A thousand copies of the novel were later burned by military authorities, with some generals calling the book false and Vargas Llosa a communist.

At 15, he was a night-owl crime reporter. While still in his teens, he joined a communist cell and eloped with 33-year-old Julia Urquidi, the Bolivian sister-in-law of his uncle. Their nine-year marriage helped inspire the comic best seller "Aunt Julia and the Script Writer" ("La Tia Julia y el Escribidor").

After they divorced, Vargas Llosa in 1965 married his first cousin, Patricia Llosa, 10 years his junior, and together they had three children.

In the 1970s, he denounced Castro's Cuba and slowly warmed to free-market capitalism, although he does not consider himself a conservative. In a famous incident in Mexico City in 1976, Vargas Llosa punched out Garcia Marquez, whom he later ridiculed as "Castro's courtesan." It was never clear whether the fight was over politics or a personal dispute.

In 1990, he ran for the presidency in Peru but lost to Alberto Fujimori. Disheartened by the broad public approval for Fujimori's harsh rule, Vargas Llosa took Spanish citizenship, living in Madrid and London. He maintained a penthouse apartment in the Peruvian capital of Lima overlooking its Pacific coast, but tended to keep a low profile during visits home long after Fujimori fled to Japan in 2000, toppled by vast corruption in his government—a twist worthy of a Vargas Llosa novel.

Final defense lawyer offers argument in Smith case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Anna Nicole Smith's lawyer-manager Howard K. Stern was also her best friend and lover and would never have been part of an alleged plot to provide her with harmful drugs, a defense lawyer said Thursday.

During his dramatic closing argument, attorney Steve Sadow, who represents Stern, said his client was closer to Smith than anyone.

"Here's a guy whose been with her since 2001," Sadow told jurors. "Witnesses have said he cherished her, loved her. She was the love of his life."

Sadow accused prosecutors of deceiving jurors with some evidence and trying to win at all cost rather than tell jurors the truth.

"How do you do this in a courtroom?" he shouted. "You don't deceive the people making the decision."

His attack became so virulent that Superior Court Judge Robert Perry told Sadow at one point to direct his remarks at jurors not toward the prosecutors seated in the courtroom.

Stern and Drs. Sandeep Kapoor and Khristine Eroshevich have pleaded not guilty to conspiring to provide excessive prescription drugs to an addict and other charges. They are not charged in Smith's 2007 accidental overdose death in Florida.

Sadow was the last of the three defense lawyers to deliver a closing argument.

Prosecutors have argued that Smith was an addict, and the defendants were feeding her addiction rather than providing prescription drugs for any legitimate medical purpose.

AP

In this Oct. 2, 2000 file photo, Anna Nicole Smith, right, smiles as she walks to the courthouse with her attorney Howard K. Stern in Houston.

Smith faked her pain to get drugs, and Stern, Kapoor and Eroshevich catered to her whims so they could remain a part of her celebrity circle, prosecutors said.

Sadow countered by accusing prosecutors of trivializing the pain Smith experienced when her son died of a drug overdose after her daughter was born.

Turning toward prosecutors, he said: "How dare you degrade and disparage Anna's life?"

Sadow also claimed prosecutors had presented misleading evidence that included testimony from a witness with a grudge against Stern who suggested Smith had a bruised face in a picture because of an argument, when she actually had undergone a cosmetic procedure.

"These were introduced by the prosecution to give you the impression that Howard Stern had done something to Anna and they know it isn't true," Sadow said.

He stressed that Stern is not a doctor and would have been unable to conspire in her treatment. Nor was it his responsibility to force her to go into treatment for addiction when Smith was not addicted, he said.

"She decided to deal with her chronic pain with medication," Sadow said. "It's the patient's decision as long as the patient knows the choices she has."

Sadow also addressed one of the prosecution's strongest pieces of evidence—a video of the 2004 American Music Awards in which Smith appeared drugged or drunk.

"Anna was not at her best that night," he said. "I think that's fair."

He noted, however, that it was uncertain if she had taken medication, and reminded jurors of testimony that Smith had suffered a seizure the night before the awards show.

As he did during the nine-week trial, Sadow showed jurors photos of a pregnant Smith looking tanned and healthy during a visit to South Carolina, a time when one witness had suggested Stern was drugging her.

"Look at how beautiful she is," Sadow said softly.

Actress Juliette Lewis injured in Calif. crash

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—Police say actress Juliette Lewis has been injured in a hit-and-run crash in Burbank.

Sgt. Sean Kelley says Lewis was a passenger in the back seat of a four-door sedan Wednesday night when a driver ran a stoplight, smashed into Lewis' vehicle and kept going.

The car was found a short distance away, but the driver had fled the scene.

Kelley says Lewis complained of pain in her head, back and neck and some bruising and was taken to a hospital.

He says the driver will be arrested on suspicion of felony hit and run when found.

The 37-year-old Lewis received a best supporting actress Oscar nomination for her role in the 1991 film "Cape Fear." She appears in the soon-to-be released film "Conviction."

AP

Juliette Lewis, a cast member in "Conviction," poses at the premiere of the film in Beverly Hills, Calif., Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2010.

Toni Braxton files for second bankruptcy in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Toni Braxton has filed for bankruptcy a second time, citing millions of dollars in debt and financial problems exacerbated by a heart condition that forced her to cancel a series of Las Vegas shows. The filing will likely result in the six-time Grammy Award winner having to sell some of her assets to pay off debts listed in court records as ranging between $10 million and $50 million.

Her attorney, Debra Grassgreen, said in a statement the filing will allow Braxton to pay off tax debts, sell heavily indebted property in Atlanta and still care for her children. Braxton has had high-profile health issues in recent years. In 2008 she was forced to cancel a series of Las Vegas shows after experiencing chest pains that were later diagnosed as microvascular angina. Later that year, she performed on the ABC series "Dancing with the Stars" but missed the finale while recovering from removal of a benign breast tumor.

Grassgreen said the Vegas show cancellations left Braxton, 43, saddled with debts from which she could not recover.

The singer and her company Liberty Entertainment filed for bankruptcy Sept. 30, court records show. The filing was first reported Thursday by celebrity website TMZ.

AP

In this March 6, 2010 file photo, U.S. singer Toni Braxton performs during the Java Jazz concert festival in Jakarta, Indonesia.

"This was a very difficult decision for Ms. Braxton," Grassgreen said. "However, after months of trying to work out an acceptable arrangement with her principal creditors, she determined that the only way to assure that she could meet her tax obligations and provide for her two small children was to commence these bankruptcy cases."

Braxton has assets worth up to $10 million, her filing states.

She previously filed for bankruptcy in 1998.

Grassgreen's statement said Braxton is currently in good health.

Known for songs such as "Un-Break My Heart" and "Breathe Again," Braxton sued Lloyd's of London, which had insured her for the Las Vegas performances in case they had to be canceled. The insurer denied her claim, stating she had a pre-existing condition, and court records show the case was dismissed on Sept. 20.

Braxton's spokeswoman Jennifer Mercer said the case was "settled to the satisfaction of all parties."

Grassgreen said the bankruptcy will not prevent Braxton from future performances.

'Lost' actress Kim makes Korean homecoming

AP

South Korea actress Kim Yun-jin, a star of the television series "Lost," poses during the opening ceremony of the 15th Pusan International Film Festival in Busan, South Korea, Thursday, Oct. 7, 2010.

BUSAN, South Korea (AP)—"Lost" actress Kim Yun-jin is making a homecoming of sorts this week at South Korea's Pusan International Film Festival.

The 36-year-old Korean-American actress recently completed her six-year stint on the hit American TV series, which aired its finale in May. She is now plunging back into the Asian movie industry where she first made her name.

At Pusan, Asia's leading film festival, she is serving as a juror for the event's New Currents prize for emerging Asian filmmakers.

"American audiences have very little knowledge of Asian film in general. ... Hopefully international film festivals such as Pusan will change that in the future," Kim told a news conference on Friday, appearing with her fellow jurors.

Kim, who was born in Seoul but moved to the U.S. at age 10, shot to fame in her native land by playing an undercover North Korean spy in the hit 1999 thriller "Shiri."

She kept working on South Korean productions while juggling her "Lost" duties. "It was always a pleasure coming back and working on a Korean movie," she said.

Her most recent Korean release came in January with the drama "Harmony," about four female prisoners who bond over a choir group.

Writing by himself: Billy Idol has a book deal

In this publicity image released by ABC, Eric Stonestreet, left, and Jesse Tyler Ferguson are shown in a scene from "Modern Family."

AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Billy Idol is writing a memoir—by himself.

The bleached-blond punk rocker is promising a story of sex and drugs and 24-hour madness. He's calling his book "Dancing with Myself," in honor of his 1980s smash hit single.

The 54-year-old singer says in a statement he's "going out on a limb here—so watch my back."

Simon & Schuster division Touchstone announced Thursday that Idol's memoir will come out in late 2011 or early 2012.

Idol first found fame in England with the punk band Generation X. He became an international solo star in the early days of MTV with hits including "Rebel Yell" and "Flesh for Fantasy."

Girl rebels when multitasking mom gets behind the wheel

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My mother does other things while she's driving, and it's a big problem for me. I only just got legal to be in the front seat (I'm 13). I don't want to be in the car with her.

She does things like put on lip liner and lip gloss and texts while she drives. She also takes both hands off the wheel and drives with her knees. When I ask her to stop, she tells me not to be a backseat driver. I have even told my grandparents what she's doing. What else can I do?

GETTING GRAY HAIR AT 13

DEAR GETTING GRAY: If ever I heard of someone who NEEDS a backseat driver, it is your mother. It's bad enough that someone alone in a car would do the dangerous things she is doing, but for a parent to do it with a child in the car is beyond the pale. It's child endangerment. Clip this column, circle your letter and show it to your mother!

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Our youngest daughter, "Camille," has been married for a year. During this time my husband and I have watched Camille berate her husband, "Mike," in front of us and others. When I ask her why she does it, her answer is invariably, "He does these annoying things to tick me off." I can't stand how humiliating it must be for Mike.

Camille's husband is quiet and passive. Watching my daughter turn him into a wimp is heartbreaking. My biggest concern is that they are expecting their first child and, when it comes to mood swings, Camille is in rare form. I can't help but wonder how all this will play out. Will this drive Mike off, leaving Camille a single mother?

I have tried talking to my daughter about how wives and husbands should respect one another, but she refuses to listen. Can you advise me in this sad situation before it is too late?

WORRIED GRANDMA-TO-BE

DEAR GRANDMA-TO-BE: Yes, take a look at how Mike's mother treats his father. It's possible that Mike is passive and accepting of your daughter's abuse because that's what he was brought up to think is normal. However, if that's not the case, warn your daughter again—and again—that if she continues her verbal abuse and he rediscovers his self-respect, she may eventually find herself raising their child alone. People who don't value what they've got often wind up losing it.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is in a new relationship. One thing I have noticed that seems to drive guys away is her use of the cell phone.

Before texting became popular, she would feel the need to call a guy during the day to wish him a good day at work. Then she'd try to call him at night to "see how the day went." Now, with texting, she'll text him "good morning," do it again sometime during the day if he doesn't answer back, then text again in the evening.

I have told her many times that guys get annoyed by this after a few days, but she doesn't understand. She says it's a gesture of caring. My daughter is 27, so I can't take the phone away. How can I tell her to back off?

TRYING TO HELP IN RAYTOWN, MO.

DEAR TRYING TO HELP: The next time your daughter tells you that what she's doing is a "gesture of caring," tell her it is also a gesture of STALKING. Remind her that most men like to at least think they are doing some of the chasing, and then tick off for her the names of the many (I'm sure) men she has chased off by doing what she's doing. If that doesn't help her to see the light, then accept it -- she's going to be single for a long, long time.

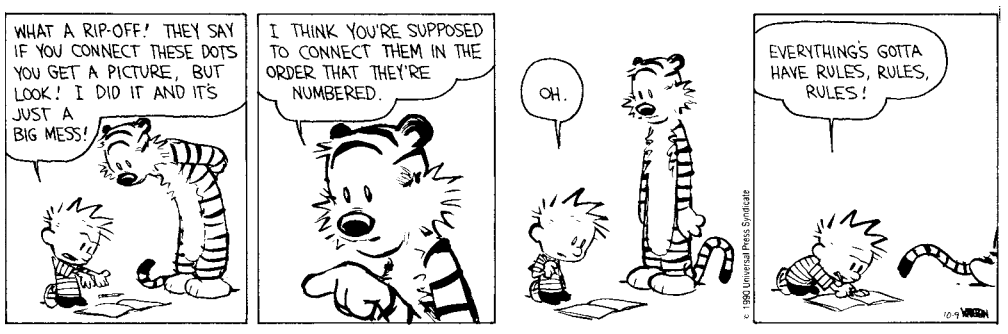
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WHAT A RIP-OFF! THEY SAY IF YOU CONNECT THESE DOTS YOU GET A PICTURE, BUT LOOK! I DID IT AND IT'S JUST A BIG MESS!
I THINK YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO CONNECT THEM IN THE ORDER THAT THEY'RE NUMBERED.
OH.
EVERYTHING'S GOTTA HAVE RULES, RULES, RULES!
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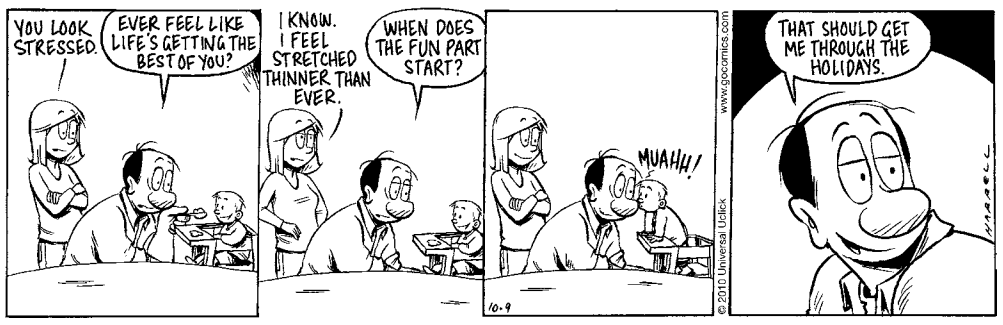
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


YOU LOOK STRESSED.
EVER FEEL LIKE LIFE'S GETTING THE BEST OF YOU?
I KNOW. I FEEL STRETCHED THINNER THAN EVER.
WHEN DOES THE FUN PART START?
MUAHH!
THAT SHOULD GET ME THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS.
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www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

GRRRR BARK... BARK
MAIL
FANG! STOP THAT!!
SORRY. I GOT CAUGHT UP IN ALL THAT ANTI-GOVERNMENT HOOPLA.
© 2010 Glenn McCoy/dist. by Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Eyeglasses
6 Tourist's query
11 Yell
12 Working in a galley
14 Alter
15 Halloween shade
16 Foreman foe
17 Two under par
19 Card-table cry
20 Arizona city
22 Fish eggs
23 Birth doc.
24 Relieve
26 Ahead
28 Floral garland
30 Bribe
31 Confine
35 "M*A*S*H" locale
39 Vegan's no-no
40 Clear the tables
42 Arithmetic homework, maybe
43 Possess
44 Trip around the world?
46 Pinch
47 Projecting rim
49 Farm
51 Having XX chromosomes
52 Contemporary
53 Not 52-Across
54 Confuse

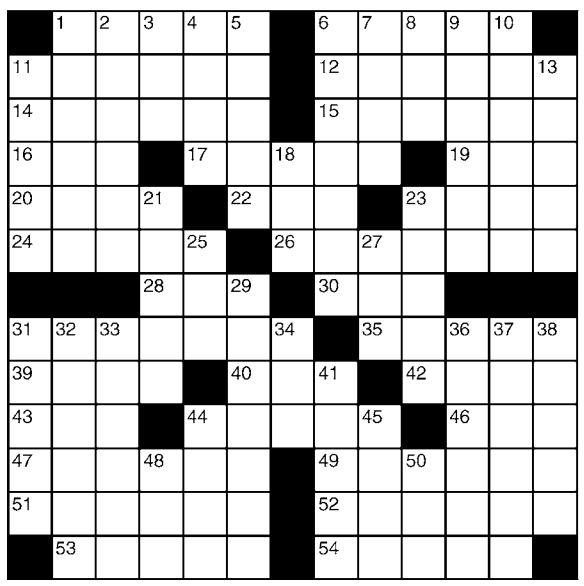
DOWN

1 Drag along
2 Kudos
3 Still, in verse
4 Travolta's "Face/Off" co-star
5 Daub
6 Warm wear
7 Aesopian also-ran
8 Historic time
9 Well-tossed horseshoe
10 Surround
11 Con games
13 Fellows
18 Moo — gai pan
21 Apportion
23 Mafia bosses
25 Moldovan money
27 Stir-fry pan
29 Produce or generate within
31 "Gotta go"
32 Whimpered
33 Canal zone
34 Fix the soundtrack
36 Streamlet
37 Asylum seeker, often
38 Colorado skiing mecca
41 Greek consonant
44 Don't merely glance
45 Walked (on)
48 Turner or Hentoff
50 Keep talking

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	B	R	A	M	■	A	P	T	■	O	S	U
S	I	E	V	E	■	G	L	O	■	C	A	N
I	N	S	E	T	■	E	A	R	M	U	F	F
■	■	T	R	A	N	N	Y	■	A	L	E	E
E	M	U	■	L	E	D	■	F	J	O	R	D
L	O	F	T	■	R	A	D	I	O	■	■	■
I	N	F	E	C	T	■	U	N	R	I	P	E
■	■	■	A	R	S	O	N	■	S	N	O	W
D	A	I	S	Y	■	U	S	E	■	A	X	E
A	C	N	E	■	A	T	T	A	C	H	■	■
M	C	G	R	U	F	F	■	S	O	U	S	A
P	R	O	■	M	A	I	■	E	L	F	I	N
S	A	D	■	A	R	T	■	L	E	F	T	Y

Yesterday's answer 10-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Steve Burns, 37; Scott Bakula, 56; Tony Shalhoub, 57; Sharon Osbourne, 58

Happy Birthday: This is the year to complete whatever needs doing if you want to maintain your reputation. Opportunities will only be available to you if you have proven you can deliver the goods. Intensity, determination and passion will play a big role in what you accomplish. Now is the time to show your strengths and offer your innovative suggestions to people in a position to walk by your side. Your numbers are 3, 10, 18, 24, 30, 38, 43

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't let responsibilities stifle your plans with loved ones. Voicing your opinion will greatly affect someone you deal with regularly. Before you say anything, think twice. Be diplomatic with your responses. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Whether it's business or personal, take part and show your interest in whatever is going on around you. The situation you face will be affected by what you contribute, not what you don't want to do. Have a positive attitude. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Put work aside and focus on having fun. Younger and older people in your life can offer you insight into something you are overlooking. Change may not be welcome but it may be necessary. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You may have to rethink your strategy regarding home improvements or dealing with the burdens you take on. Plan something enjoyable for the evening hours. You deserve a break. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Get out of the house and away from anyone who complains or projects dissatisfaction. Contracts will not be fulfilled or turn out as planned. You need a change, but not one that takes place at home. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Love and romance, coupled with favorable emotional interaction, will lead to an interesting outcome. Spend time experiencing something totally unique. Travel plans to an exotic destination will give you something to look forward to. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Look beyond any adversity you face. You are better, stronger and wiser and there is no need to argue a moot point. Bypass anyone who tries to change your plans or get in your way. Strength and courage, coupled with honesty, integrity and good character, will be your forte. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Emotions will be hard to hide and sharing your thoughts and intentions is probably your best bet. With change will come greater opportunity but first you must let go of what's not working for you. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Know what you are talking about before you offer your opinion. Being blamed for exaggeration will not put you in a good position. Tell it like it is and have the facts and figures to back you up. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Stick to the projects you promised you would complete. You will face criticism if you don't do everything by the book. Focus on your attributes and offer the services you know you can do well. An added responsibility will entail a journey. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll have life-altering choices to make. There are positive possibilities but, if you choose to take shortcuts, you will wish you hadn't. Look at the legal and financial aspects and calculate the risks involved. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Put all your emphasis on the here and now. A transition is about to happen but you must be positioned properly if you want to take action and benefit. Love and romance are apparent, so put time aside for fun. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intense, passionate and innovative. You trust in what you can do and you respect tradition. You have integrity and will stand up for the underdog.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5								
	4			2	8	3	1	
1		9				7		
			6					8
	1						2	
3					2			
		6				5		1
	7	8	5	9			4	
								2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	5	9	6	2	3	4	1	7
1	7	2	9	5	4	8	6	3
6	4	3	1	7	8	2	9	5
3	8	1	7	9	6	5	2	4
5	6	7	4	1	2	3	8	9
9	2	4	3	8	5	1	7	6
7	1	5	8	3	9	6	4	2
4	3	8	2	6	7	9	5	1
2	9	6	5	4	1	7	3	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/09

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DESKS **Solution: 8 letters**

E	V	I	T	A	R	T	S	I	N	I	M	D	A	C
R	M	D	S	N	O	I	T	P	E	C	E	R	U	P
U	I	R	S	C	T	T	R	O	P	E	R	B	O	L
T	E	A	E	C	A	F	R	U	S	A	I	S	R	A
I	N	W	N	(T)	L	R	E	A	D	C	I	O	G	N
N	O	E	I	(A)	U	S	P	N	L	T	T	E	A	T
R	H	R	S	(L)	C	P	E	E	I	I	X	L	N	S
U	P	S	U	(F)	L	L	M	O	N	E	H	Y	I	S
F	E	L	B	E	A	M	N	O	C	T	N	T	Z	R
E	L	E	N	C	C	G	M	U	C	A	R	S	E	E
R	E	G	A	O	I	O	T	O	P	R	A	Y	S	S
A	T	S	R	S	V	I	F	M	C	O	V	E	R	A
H	E	N	E	E	V	F	O	S	K	C	A	N	S	R
S	E	D	H	E	E	C	B	E	V	E	R	A	G	E
R	F	I	L	E	S	S	E	N	I	D	R	U	T	S

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Administrative, Beverage, Business, Calculator, Calendar, Carpentry, Cases, Coffee, Company, Computer, Corner, Cover, Cubicle, Decorate, Design, Drawers, Erasers, Executive, Files, Flat, Furniture, Legs, Length, Monitor, Move, Organize, Plants, Position, Read, Reception, Report, Share, Snacks, Sturdiness, Style, Surface, Telephone

Yesterday's Answer: Festival

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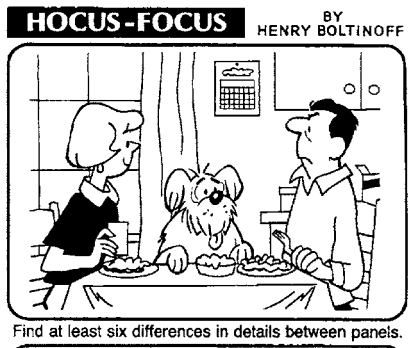
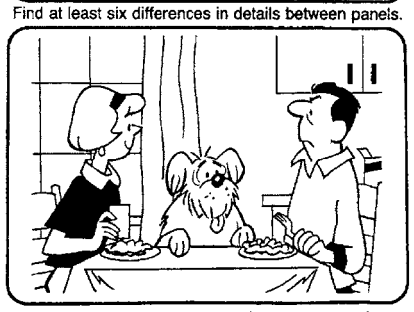
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Cabinet knobs are different. 2. Calendar is gone. 3. Woman has a headband. 4. Man's cuff is black. 5. Dog's food is missing. 6. Box on counter is gone.

Wishing Well®

3	6	4	5	3	6	5	4	6	7	2	4	3
L	Y	S	T	I	O	E	O	U	U	N	L	F
4	5	6	3	5	7	4	3	5	2	8	4	6
I	N	B	E	S	S	T	I	I	E	E	U	E
7	3	2	8	6	3	2	8	3	5	7	8	5
E	S	W	A	C	F	L	G	U	O	T	E	N
3	8	2	7	3	6	2	7	4	7	8	2	6
L	R	O	A	L	O	V	L	D	E	T	E	M
7	8	2	6	5	2	4	2	7	8	6	4	6
N	O	I	E	R	N	E	T	T	L	C	I	O
5	8	7	5	4	5	4	5	8	2	6	2	4
E	E	S	D	S	U	O	C	A	E	N	R	K
8	2	5	6	8	5	6	2	6	2	4	6	4
R	E	E	T	N	D	E	S	N	T	A	T	Y

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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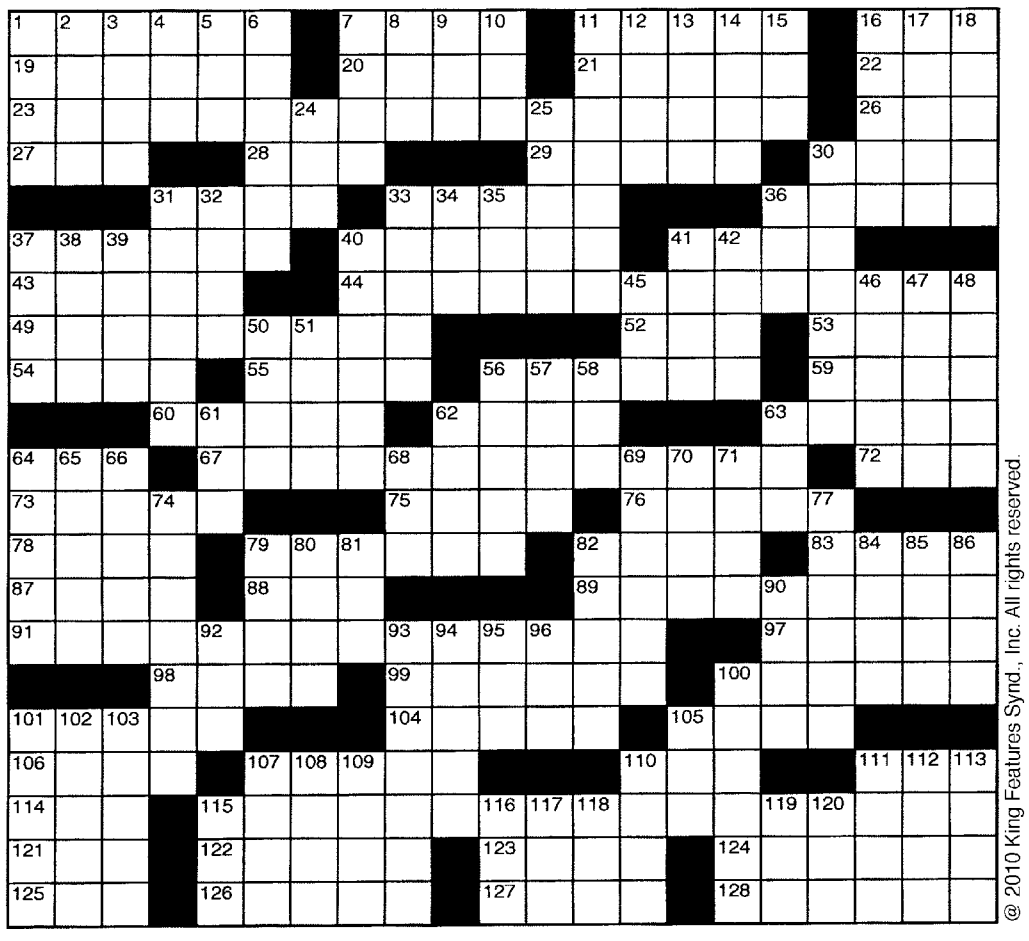
Super Crossword — LABOR-

ACROSS

1 Tumult
7 Singer Dottie
11 Ignominy
16 Hydro-therapy site
19 Disquiet
20 "Nabucco" number
21 Bile producer
22 Son of Noah
23 '79 Judy Davis film
26 Literary collection
27 Bit of butter
28 Lummox
29 Forestall
30 Surprise test
31 Funnyman Foxx
33 Feta marinade
36 Light weight
37 Telescope view
40 Donahue of "Get a Life"
41 Besch or Andersson
43 Came around
44 '31 Marx Brothers movie
49 Toody and Muldoon
52 Monte Rosa, e.g.
53 Machu Picchu native
54 Vivacity
55 "My Sweet __" ('70 smash)
56 With enthusiasm
59 "The Subject Was Roses" star
60 Norwegian composer
62 Bridge term
63 Conductor's concern
64 Mini, to MacTavish
67 Kirk's command
72 Itch
73 Explorer Sebastian
75 Elwes or Grant
76 Dodge
78 Spirited steed
79 Attempt
82 Obstacle
83 Salt serving
87 Mediter-ranean port
88 Skater Babilonia
89 Sciorra of "Jungle Fever"
91 "Double, double __" ("Macbeth" refrain)
97 Heavenly hunter
98 "Dies __"
99 Jim Varney character
100 Had a knight job?
101 Clear the slate
104 Dutch export
105 Take-out order?
106 Pull sharply
107 Valhalla VIP
110 Calendar abbr.
111 "__ Wieder-sehen"
114 Goal
115 Peter Graves series
121 Middling mark
122 Comic Sherman
123 Hodgepodge
124 Verdi hero
125 Hamilton bill
126 Effluvia
127 Wording
128 Basket material

DOWN

1 Phrenology term
2 "Orinoco Flow" singer
3 Liability
4 Household deity
5 "A Fool Such __" ('59 hit)
6 Tune
7 Street urchin
8 History division
9 Offense
10 Make lace
11 Bondage
12 Take on board
13 Maintain
14 Competition
15 Drop a brick
16 Rocker Cassidy
17 Lose control
18 Stun
24 Housman's "A Shropshire __"
25 Lake sight
30 Malaria treatment
31 Leaves work?
32 Small business-man?
33 Fair
34 __ Tin Tin
35 Cephalo-pod's squirt
36 Kimono closer
37 Rubberneck
38 Way off base?
39 "Damn Yankees" siren
40 Materialize
41 Vatican document
42 Culp/Cosby
45 Spoiled
46 Foe
47 Word form for "view"
48 Upscale shop
50 "__ Coming" ('69 song)
51 Berg and Drabowsky
56 Put on guard
57 Be different
58 Rapscallion
61 Furrow
62 Firmament feature
63 Rocker Nugent
64 Barely there
65 "Tosca" tenor
66 Problem solvers?
68 Sgt. or cpl.
69 Cheese-maker's need
70 A Karamazov brother
71 It's a long story
74 Cleopatra's Needle, for one
77 Swimmer Gertrude
79 Empedocles' last stand?
80 Lose luster
81 Robust
82 Taco topping
84 Landed
85 Gin flavoring
86 Round of applause
90 Cook in a cauldron
92 Exist
93 Gets back
94 Maine town
95 Burmese statesman
96 You can retire on it
100 More nervous
101 Tape-deck button
102 Actress Adoree
103 "As You Like It" setting
105 Couple
107 Unrestrained
108 '52 Winter Olympics site
109 Tyrant
110 Detect
111 Blind as __
112 Radius' sidekick?
113 Sinn __
115 Hua's predeces-sor
116 "I kid you __"
117 __ du Diable
118 Combine
119 Mexican Mrs.
120 Part of UPI



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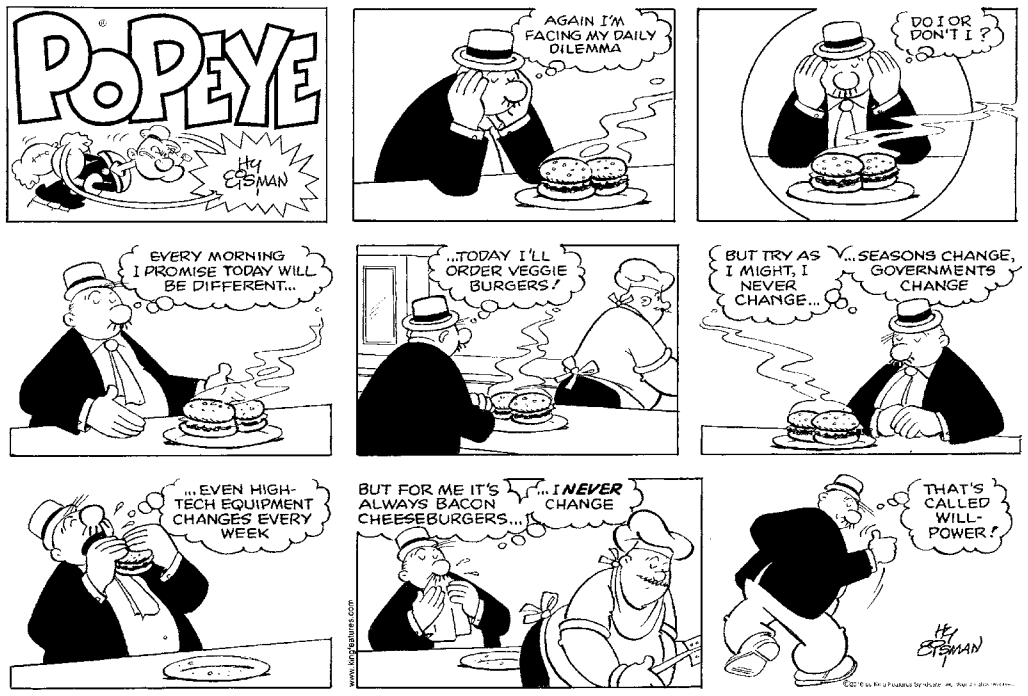
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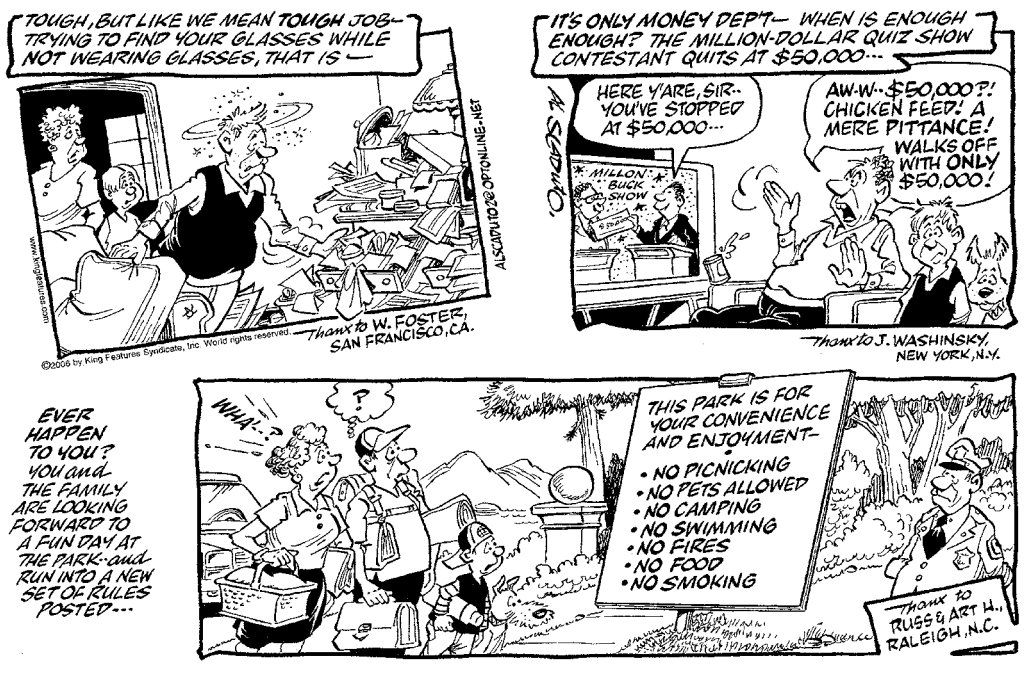
by Al Scaduto


TOUGH, BUT LIKE WE MEAN TOUGH JOB-- TRYING TO FIND YOUR GLASSES WHILE NOT WEARING GLASSES, THAT IS —
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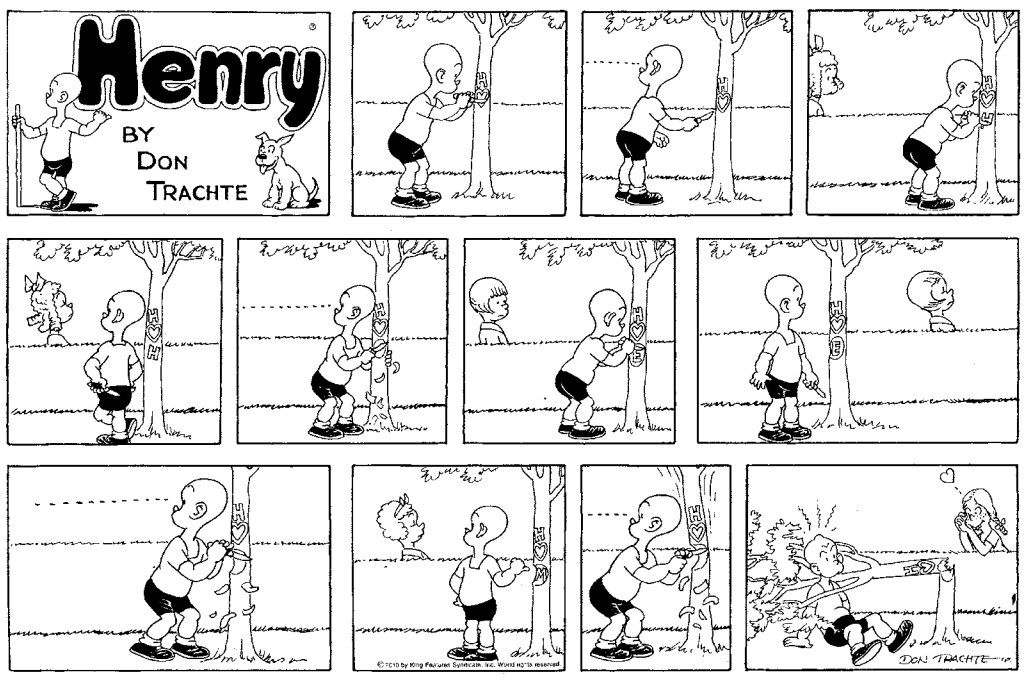

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. HUMAN ANATOMY: Where is the hyoid bone located in the human body?
2. MEASUREMENTS: When would an antepenultimate event be held?
3. LANGUAGE: What is another name for a virgule, a type of punctuation?
4. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Who once said, "An onion can make people cry, but there has never been a vegetable invented to make them laugh"?
5. INVENTIONS: When was Astroturf patented?
6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of unicorns called?
7. PSYCHOLOGY: What is latrophobia?
8. MONEY: What is the term for the ridges that are on the sides of some coins?
9. MATH: What is a division sign also known as?
10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which is the only inanimate symbol in the zodiac signs?

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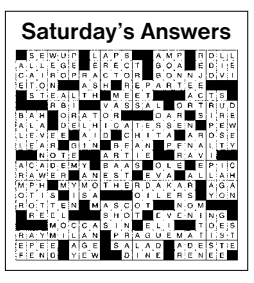
Answers

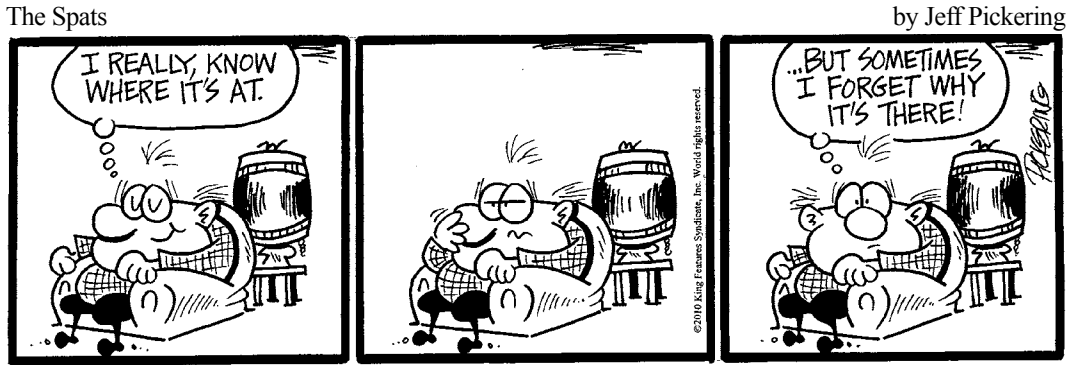
1. The throat
2. Third from the last event
3. Slash mark
4. Will Rogers
5. 1967
6. A blessing
7. A fear of doctors
8. Reeding
9. An obelus
10. Libra, the Scales

Saturday's Answers



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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Pettitte pitches Yankees past Twins for 2-0 lead

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)— Sure, the New York Yankees stumbled through September as Andy Pettitte tried to work his way back from a groin injury.

After landing in the AL wild-card spot, the defending World Series champs look as though they had the Minnesota Twins right where they wanted 'em.

Pettitte turned in a vintage performance with seven smooth innings and Lance Berkman had two big hits in a 5-2 victory by the Yankees over their favorite postseason punching bag on Thursday evening for a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five division series.

So much for Minnesota's home-field advantage. The Yankees are hardly an underdog when it comes to October.

"Andy, when he gets in big situations, he knows how to handle it," New York manager Joe Girardi said. "He's not going to try to make the perfect pitch. He's going to stay aggressive and just try to do what he does. And I think a lot of that is just from experience."

Berkman hit a go-ahead home run in the fifth and a tiebreaking double in the seventh against Carl Pavano, sending the Twins to their 11th straight postseason loss. Eight of those have come against the Yankees, who trailed in each of those games.

From the point of the Twins' biggest lead in those games, the Yankees have outscored them 42-8.

Mariano Rivera got three outs for his second save of the series, extending his postseason record to 41 and running his career total to 600, including 559 in the regular season. The road team has won all four games in the two AL playoff series.

The Twins? They haven't won a postseason game since 2004, matching the Philadelphia Phillies (1915-1976) for the second-longest streak in history behind the Boston Red Sox (1986-1995) and their 13 in a row.

Berkman, yet another big-name veteran finding a place on a Yankees postseason roster, even on the downside of his career, made it 2-1 with his drive into the left-center bullpen in the fifth. His double in the seventh—one pitch after it appeared Pavano sneaked strike three past him—drove in Jorge Posada and gave the Yankees a 3-2 lead.

"That's why I wanted to come over here, just to get a chance to play in these games," Berkman said.

The disputed call by plate umpire Hunter Wendelstedt led to the ejection of Twins manager Ron Gardenhire following Berkman's double, and Pavano soon exited before getting another out. He allowed 10 hits and four runs.

Many fans proudly wore their pregame giveaways—fuzzy black stick-on replica mustaches in honor of Pavano's appearance. He started strong, but the Yankees were sure on the ball in the fourth—and they really got to him in the seventh.

AP

New York Yankees starting pitcher Andy Pettitte throws during the first inning of Game 2 of baseball's American League Division Series against the Minnesota Twins, Thursday, Oct. 7, 2010, in Minneapolis.

Derek Jeter chased his old teammate off the mound with a half-swing RBI single to make it 4-2. Curtis Granderson scored New York's first run and came up with three more hits. And the Yankees headed back home for Game 3 on Saturday night with a commanding lead over the team they own in October.

"We've got a big hill to climb. It's not going to be easy, but it can be done," Gardenhire said. "We've seen it done before, and this club is never going to quit."

Pettitte retired 12 in a row until Orlando Hudson's homer tied it at 2 in the sixth. He needed only 88 pitches to finish seven innings, with five hits and two runs allowed. He walked one and struck out four, deftly escaping a couple of tricky spots.

"I just think the biggest part of it is being able to control your emotions," Pettitte said, pointing to his "tunnel vision" in critical situations. "Nothing's going to faze you. Nothing's going to make you nervous."

The old man, as Hudson respectfully referred to him the night before, broke a bunch of bats and was able to escape a bases-loaded, one-out situation in the second by allowing Danny Valencia's only sacrifice fly.

Pettitte spoke the day before about how, while he doesn't change his approach, these October appearances simply feel different to him. As one of the Yankees' famed Core Four, he sure would know. This was his 41st career postseason start and 19th win—both major league records.

Pettitte strained his left groin muscle and missed two months until returning for three starts at the end of the regular season. His absence compounded concerns about the rotation, but after winning a so-so start by CC Sabathia in Game 1 and getting this vintage effort from Pettitte the Yankees don't look as though they'll be affected by any pitching problems.

Giants 1, Braves 0

In San Francisco, the last time the San Francisco Giants were in the playoffs, muscle-bound slugger Barry Bonds was the face of the franchise. Now, it's the skinny, shaggy-haired pitcher full of quirks.

The Freak really showed up on his biggest stage yet.

Tim Lincecum pitched a two-hitter and struck out 14 in a dominating postseason debut, and the Giants scored their only run after a questionable umpiring call to beat the Atlanta Braves 1-0 in Game 1 of their NL division series Thursday night.

"As far shutouts go, I think that was up there with my better ones," said Lincecum, who pitched on seven days' rest. "I was pretty anxious to get out there a couple days ago. You just have to deal with those extra days."

The two-time NL Cy Young winner pitched a gem, a day after Philadelphia's Roy Halladay threw only the second no-hitter in postseason history in his first playoff game. Lincecum outdueled playoff veteran Derek Lowe and caught a break, too.

Cody Ross singled in the only run Lincecum needed in the fourth after Buster Posey was called safe by umpire Paul Emmel on a steal of second.

"I guess it's a good thing we don't have instant replay right now," Posey said. "It was a beautiful slide, wasn't it?"

It was the first career steal for Posey, even though he appeared to be tagged out by Brooks Conrad on the play - retiring Braves manager Bobby Cox, the all-time leader in ejections, did not argue.

"I haven't seen it," Cox said. "Some of the guys came down after that inning and said he was out by six, eight inches. From the dugout you can't see anything."

Said Emmel: "I saw him safe. That's what I called."

Lincecum struck out Derrek Lee for the third time to end the 119-pitch masterpiece in 2 hours, 26 minutes. He became just the 12th pitcher with 14 or more strikeouts in a postseason game.

Rangers 6, Rays 0

In St. Petersburg, Florida, gratified to finally be in the playoffs, Michael Young and the Texas Rangers are making the most of their opportunity.

Young hit a three-run homer one pitch after keeping his at-bat alive with a disputed check-swing, helping C.J. Wilson and the AL West champions beat the Tampa Bay Rays 6-0 Thursday for a 2-0 lead in their division series.

"I just think that we've had a great mentality these first two games," Young said. "We're not really thinking about some huge, grand picture here. We empty the bank for the game we're playing that day."

Texas is the only current major league franchise that's never won a playoff series. After winning consecutive games on the road, that can change with one victory when the best-of-five matchup shifts to Rangers Ballpark this weekend.

Game 3 is Saturday, with Matt Garza pitching for Tampa Bay against Colby Lewis.

"Being up 2-0 is huge, especially winning two on the road. But we still haven't accomplished anything yet," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "Our goal is to get as far as we possibly can, and we're just going to take it back to Texas and come out and try to play as hard as we can again."

Ian Kinsler also homered for the Rangers, who are in the playoffs for the first time since 1999 and hadn't won a postseason game in 14 years before Cliff Lee shut down the sputtering Rays in their home park on Wednesday.

Wilson was equally impressive, allowing two hits in 6 2-3 innings. He gave up a single to leadoff man Jason Bartlett to start the game, then limited the Rays to just three baserunners on an error, a walk and a hit batter over the next five innings.

Lakers fall to Euro champion Barcelona

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Juan Carlos Navarro scored 25 points to help Barcelona beat the NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers 92-88 in an exhibition on Thursday.

Spanish center Pau Gasol led the Lakers with 24 points but had only one field goal in the second half. His homecoming was spoiled by the Euroleague champion in a game that lived up to the billing of an informal intercontinental showdown.

"You always want to win, but it was an emotional game," Gasol said. "The fans enjoyed it, and the atmosphere was spectacular. We lost, but when your friends win you have to be happy for them.

The Lakers blew a 12-point advantage in the second half and were outplayed down the stretch after the game was tied at 72 midway through the fourth quarter.

"They played much better in the fourth quarter," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said, ruing his team's turnovers. "We anticipated they would not take a back seat and that they would be very physical. They did a good job doubling Pau in the second half and making him go to the foul line for his points."

Kobe Bryant played 25 minutes, compared to six on Monday in a loss to the Minnesota Timberwolves, as he recovers from knee surgery.

He scored 15 points but went 2 for 15 from the field and missed two 3-pointers with a chance to tie the game with under a minute to play.

Bryant said his knee was feeling good, but Jackson said his guard played above his fitness level.

"He is not ready to play. He went out there to show his goodwill for the fans and to support his team," Jackson said.

With the loss to the Timberwolves, the NBA champions head home with a 0-2 preseason record.

Pete Mickael had 24 points and Terrence Morris chipped in with four 3-pointers for the Euroleague titleholders.

Gasol was the center of attention from the moment he stepped on the court, receiving a constant barrage of camera flashes throughout warmups, and a roaring standing ovation when he addressed the crowd before the game.

"It was a wonderful feeling to be so well supported and appreciated after so many years playing abroad, and I am very proud to have been received in this way," Gasol said.

Bryant and Barcelona's stars Ricky Rubio and Navarro also drew huge applause when they were introduced.

"The first thing you noticed was the crowd," Bryant said. "It was great to see a packed house."

Neither team played like it was merely an exhibition. Three technical fouls were called.

Navarro admitted it was not a "pretty" game.

"It was physical, and despite the fact we missed a lot of outside shots, we held on to get the win," Navarro said.

The Lakers went right to Gasol from the opening tip. He scored the game's first basket, a baseline jumper, and he notched his 10th point in six minutes to give the Lakers an early 18-12 lead.

Navarro took charge for Barcelona, scoring nine in the first quarter. He assisted Erazem Lorbek for a 3-pointer to tie it at 20, and a free throw by Mickeal gave the home team a one-point lead with 2:07 to play in the first.

Barcelona extended its lead to 30-26 in the opening minutes of the second, as the Lakers struggled to score with Gasol on the bench.

Rookie Devin Ebanks scored four straight points - a layup off a pass by Gasol and two more from the foul line after he rebounded his own free throw miss - to put the Lakers in front 37-36. But back-to-back 3-pointers by Navarro and Morris sent Barcelona into the break up 45-44.

The celebratory atmosphere did not stop the crowd from jeering the referees when they called a technical on Navarro for protesting a foul on Bryant, who converted the three free throws to put the Lakers in front 53-47 early in the third.

A steal and slam by Ron Artest capped a 17-4 run by the Lakers to take a 61-49 lead midway through the third. But Barcelona responded and outscored the visitors 18-7 to move ahead 68-67 before Gasol completed a three-point play to reclaim a two-point advantage heading into the final period.

A 3-pointer by Mickael put Barcelona ahead 84-78 with under three minutes to go.

The Lakers scraped back to within two points, but Navarro sealed the win from the free throw line.

AP

Los Angeles Lakers player Pau Gasol, right, drives for the basket against FC Barcelona's Roger Grimau, left, during the NBA Europe Live 2010 Tour in Barcelona, Spain, Thursday, Oct. 7, 2010.

Moss glad to be back home with Vikings

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—To hear Randy Moss tell it, this week's blockbuster trade that moved him from New England to Minnesota didn't just bring him back to the place where he started his NFL career.

The headline grabbing move wasn't about Moss simply coming back to a team that traded him five years ago.

More important than anything for Moss, and thus for the Vikings, is that the star receiver feels like he is home.

"I'm very fortunate to be back home where it all started," said Moss, the West Virginia native who referred to Minnesota as home seven times Thursday. "It's been a hectic last 48 hours. I didn't really know what to expect. I'm back home."

Wearing that familiar purple No. 84 on his back, Moss practiced with the Vikings a day after he was acquired from the Patriots in a trade his new team hopes will get them right back in the Super Bowl conversation.

"To all the Vikings fans that are coming to the Metrodome, pull your 84 jerseys out, man," Moss said. "I think this is going to be a fun ride."

With owners Zygi and Mark Wilf watching from the sideline, Moss caught passes from Brett Favre and talked to offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell as he prepares for Monday night's road game against the New York Jets.

"Who woulda ever thunk it?" Favre asked.

Moss spent his first seven seasons in Minnesota, emerging as the best deep threat in the league for one of the most potent offenses ever assembled. He was traded to Oakland in 2005 and spent the last three seasons with the Patriots before being dealt back to the Vikings on Wednesday.

"The people that I meet on the regular outside the state of Minnesota, all they know is me being in the purple 84," Moss said, adding later: "I still have a lot of love for the Minnesota Vikings, man. Just luckily I did get traded here. For what reasons, I still don't know to this day. But I am back."

No matter where he has played—in college, with the Vikings after he slid down the draft board in 1998 or in New England after many thought he was washed up—Moss has always played his best with a chip on his shoulder.

That's what the Vikings are hoping to see again.

"I think there's always that," coach Brad Childress said after the trade was announced. "The great thing about this business is you have to do it every week. For anybody that is saying anything bad about Randy Moss, he gets a chance to show them wrong. That's never a bad motivator."

Moss became a star in college, when he ended up at Marshall after off-the-field issues caused Notre Dame to rescind a scholarship offer. He had two brilliant seasons with the Thundering Herd, but he fell to the Vikings at No. 21 in the 1998 draft because of concerns about his character.

Moss unleashed all that pent up frustration in his first season, scoring 17 touchdowns and averaging more than 19 yards per catch to help the Vikings reach the NFC title game. In his seven seasons with the Vikings, Moss caught 574 passes for 9,142 yards and 90 touchdowns.

But the Vikings eventually grew tired of Moss's occasionally petulant behavior, and shipped him to the Raiders in 2005. A few nagging injuries and Oakland's struggles on the field combined to make his two years there largely unproductive.

"I still feel obligated to make this thing happen because when nobody wanted to give me a chance the Minnesota Vikings did give me a chance," Moss said.

He brushed aside one question about his controversial past in Minnesota, then took a playful jab at the infamous "Love Boat" scandal in 2005, the year after he was traded.

"Yeah, I did have a few mix-ups here, but who didn't?" he asked. "What if I'd have been on that boat? There really would have been some problems."

Moss said he was "very depressed" when he was traded from Minnesota. "Me going to Oakland and not winning games put me in a deeper depression," he said.

His first year in New England ranks among the very best from any receiver in NFL history, with 98 catches for 1,493 yards and a record 23 touchdowns to help the Patriots reach the Super Bowl. He caught 50 touchdowns in 52 games with the Patriots.

Moss entered this season in the final year of a three-year, $27 million contract and made no secret of his desire for a new deal. He complained about not feeling wanted in New England and said that he expected this year to be his last with the Patriots.

After going without a catch Monday night against the Dolphins, Moss was traded to the Vikings, who play at New England on Oct. 31.

"Did I want to get traded out of New England? I don't know what the answer is," Moss said. "All I can say is there's no other place I'd rather get traded to besides Minnesota."

Patriots coach Bill Belichick strongly denied reports of a rift between Moss and the organization.

"There was never any incident or discipline problem with Randy," coach Bill Belichick said Thursday. "There never has been one with me in four years. And it certainly wasn't about contract and money."

Now the Vikings are hoping Moss can find enough motivation to return to his dominant form and revive a stagnant passing offense.

Favre has long hoped to play with Moss, and now he has the deep threat he's been missing since Sidney Rice had hip surgery in August.

"Randy comes in, we're just going to throw it up and there's 11 guys on him and you just throw it up to him. There may be times when that's the case," Favre said with a giddy smile before catching himself. "I was just joking. Ten guys, maybe."

Flying Dartsmen, Yakau stay on top

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Flying Dartsmen out of Buddies Bar & Grill and Jonny's Yakau remained on top of the leaderboard in the 2010 Saipan Electronic Dart Association League after Monday's games.

The Flying Dartsmen, who has a 104-66 record, hold a five-game lead over the Naked Fish Boyz, while Buddies Bar & Grill's Locals (94-76) and Charlie's Primos (92-78) are battling for the third spot. Weekly notables include a 160 High-In by Jeff Barit of D'Pirates Bar & Grill's CK-Destroyers and a 155 High-Out by the Dartsmen's Julian Camacho.

A 12-5 win over the CK-Destroyers helped the Flying Dartsmen keep the lead. The Flying Dartsmen won three of four singles 301 matches, partners 501 games, and three of four snipers matches to soundly defeat the CK-Destroyers. They added a wild cricket win, a pair of cricket matches, and the final team 1001 game to their total. The Dartsmen's Albert Guevarra won all six of his matches.

In the Ladies League, Yakau, with its 101-49 mark, is clinging to a two-game margin over DPBG's Strikers. Notably, Yakau and Strikers are the only two frontrunners in the eight-member Ladies division. This week, Polly Omechelang of USSP's Kmal Sechelim recorded a 160 High-In and the Striker's Rufina Guevarra scored a High-Out of 124.

A DIVISION

Naked Fish Boyz 11, Right There! 6

Both teams won a pair of singles 301 matches, a partners 501 game, and a pair of sniper matches before the Naked Fish Boyz came alive and swept both wild cricket games and three of the four sniper matches for the automatic victory. The Boyz's Peter Deleon Guerrero won all six of his matches.

Locals 12, Vargas Snipers 5

At Charlie's, the Locals won three of four singles 301 matches, both partners 501 games and three of four sniper matches for a quick automatic victory over Charlie's Vargas Snipers. Then the Locals swept both wild cricket games and won a pair of cricket matches before the Vargas Snipers took the final team 1001 match. Local's Greg Sasamoto won five of his six matches.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Buddies Bar & Grill's Locals pose for a photo in their home bar after a 12-5 victory over Charlie's Vargas Snipers last Monday during the SEDA League.

LADIES LEAGUE

Yakau 12, Pink Panthers 3

At Buddies, Yakau won three of the four singles 301 matches, a game of wild cricket, and swept both partners 5012 matches for the lead. Yakau then quickly secured the automatic victory after winning three of the four cricket matches. Yakau's Lois Blaluk won all six of her matches.

Tipiyeew 8, Kmal Sechelim 7

Kmal Sechelim won three of the four singles 301 matches, a game of wild cricket, and swept both partners 501 matches for the early lead. Then Tipiyeew roared back and won three of the four cricket matches and swept both partners baseball games before taking the final team 1001 match for the team victory. Tipiyeew's Rose Laniyo won five of her six matches.

Strikers 13, Megatouch 2

At Buddies, the Strikers swept all four singles 301 matches, both wild cricket games, and both partners 501 contests to make light work of last place Megatouch. They added three cricket matches, a partners baseball game and the final team 1001 match to their total. Strikers' Rufina Guevarra won five out of six matches.

RUNNERS

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ner in my book," Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas said.

The event was sponsored by the MVA, Marianas Coffee Co., KFC Triathlon Japan, TEAM PDI, and Northern Marianas Athletics.

Rounding out the Top 3 male finishers in the long course were Cesar Danao of Saipan in second place at 3:28:47 and Michael Towle in third place at 3:32:19. In second place for the women's division was Rebecca Reed at 4:09:27, while finishing third was Natasha Kuckuck at 4:16:07.

Another 28 runners joined the 10K course, which was topped by Saipan's Jack Kabriel in the male division at 1:00:26 and Japan's Akane Imaya in the female division at 1:20:55. In the male division, Joe Taitano of Guam finished second at 1:06:27 and Austin Kosam of Saipan finished third at 1:09:45. Rounding out the Top 3 female finishers were Amanda Kloeppel of U.S. at 1:23:00 in second place and Wanda Aldrich of Japan in 1:26:28.

The MVA extended the course this year to help raise the trail run to an international level of competition. The course took runners through wild coffee plantations planted in the Japanese-colonial era, and well as the young coffee groves of Marianas Coffee Co.

"We were happy to see strong participation from our local runners, and hope to generate more off-island participation next year," said Duenas.

The MVA also thanked the event supporters: Marianas Pacific Paddlers, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Saipan Sea Ventures, Saipan Grand Hotel, Fiesta Resort and Spa, Aqua Resort Club, Triple J Super Fresh, Saipan World Resort, Dept. of Public Safety, Dept. of Public Lands, Jesus Attao, Frank Camacho, Turkey Farm, Kenji Onuma, the Lizama and Diaz families, Red Cross Northern Mariana Islands Chapter, and all volunteers.

Awards were given to the Top 3 finishers in the male and female divisions, while age group winners received medals. ***(PR)***

SIP

From Page 28

Wowie Abuel had a chance to trim down the lead when he was fouled in the ensuing play. However, Abuel uncharacteristically missed both charities. He later muffed two triples in the closing seconds of the game and committed an errant pass, causing MDX the game and a semis berth.

After Abuel's missed triples, MDX was forced to give up fouls and SIP drew one charity each from Junar Guiab and Muleta for a 96-91 lead, nine seconds left in the match.

A lean-in triple from Bon Tamayo kept MDX's hopes alive, 94-96, and a preemptive foul stopped the clock and sent Estolas to the foul line, five ticks to go in the game.

Estolas calmly sank the first charity and then missed the second. MDX's Dave Sablan and De Guzman fought for the rebound and with neither player having the advantage in this play, they both tapped the ball out toward the 15-foot line. Estolas then went up for the ball and after seeing a taller MDX player battling him for the board, he wisely tapped the leather out and it landed to the right hand. Muleta picked up the ball and melted the clock, preserving SIP's win.

SIP escaped with a three-point victory despite falling behind by as much as 14 in the third period, 47-61. MDX built a double-digit lead in the third after a rally late in the second period. SIP was still ahead, 43-42, when Bon Tamayo anchored a 9-0 windup for MDX's 51-43 halftime lead.

However, MDX failed to sustain its momentum as the two-guard combination of Estolas and Muleta brought Mobil back into the game. Estolas began feeling comfortable with his third pair of shoes for the night and drilled 11 points in the third period where SIP tied the game at 67-all, before a Jun Pantaleon jumper put MDX back in the lead.

Estolas had to change shoes three times as his left shoe lost its sole and the second pair was a borrowed one and was a bit bigger. The third pair arrived a few minutes before the second half started and Estolas and Muleta then began working together to keep SIP afloat.

A triple from Ron Gamboa put SIP in the lead for the first time in the second half, 70-69, but Abuel answered with five straight points and three minutes later MDX was ahead anew, 76-70.

However, SIP kept its composure and got timely baskets from Estolas, Muleta, and Gil Gapor to hand MDX its first loss of the season. Estolas finished with a game-high 33 points, while Muleta and Gapor added 25 and 16, respectively.

MDX lost its grip to the lead when it started missing long jumpers, as SIP extended their defense outside. Before SIP took over the game in the fourth, MDX connected seven triples. The defending champion had two more at the start of the final canto, but missed a bundle in the ensuing plays before Tamayo hit one in the last nine seconds of the match.

With the win, SIP will face the winner of the MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt and Cavite game for the first finals ticket on Tuesday. MAFEA will meet Cavite for a semis seat tonight at 8pm after the masters game between VisMinda and MDX-Monster at 6:30pm.

MDX-Chow Queen dropped to the loser's bracket and must win its game next week to keep its title defense bid alive. MDX-Chow Queen will face the loser of the MAFEA-Cavite tiff.

SIP-Mobil 97 – Estolas 33, Muleta 25, Gapor 16, Guiab 15, De Guzman 6, Gamboa 3.

MDX-Chow Queen 94 – Tamayo 28, Abuel 15, Bernardo 12, Pantaleon 10, De Vero 9, Fitial 8, Sablan 6, Demapan 4, Aquino 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-27, 43-51, 67-69, 97-94.

NEW

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Games if he/she is a child of at least one parent or has two grandparents, who were born in an MGA-member nation.

Two other provisions in the old MGC Charter remain: (1) Micronesian athletes, not born in the island/country they represent, may still compete provided they meet a minimum residency requirement of three years; (2) Non-Micronesian athletes can participate if they have resided in the island/country they represent for seven consecutive years prior to the Games.

"The temporary absence of an athlete from the territory of a member MGA for purposes such as education, sports training, military service, and health care, or other legitimate absences of a similar kind, shall not be considered as interrupting a previously-established residency," stated in the revised MGC Charter.

The next Micronesian Games will be held in Pohnpei, which was the lone member MGA to submit a bid to the 2014 event.

Initially, host Pohnpei is proposing 13 sports to be played in the 8th Micronesian Games, namely, basketball (men's and women's), indoor volleyball (men's and women), baseball (men), softball, athletics, swimming, table tennis, weightlifting, wrestling, outrigger canoe, Micro All-Around, lawn tennis, and spearfishing.

The Micronesian Games Council will meet months before the 2014 Micro Games to approve the proposed calendar of events and the date of the competition.

The 7th Micronesian Games ran from Aug. 1 to 10 with host Palau winning the overall championship and the CNMI placing second.

$10K

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in the side pot will be quartered and awarded to the winners of each hole.

Proceeds from the tournament will be donated to the Shriner's Hospital for Burned and Crippled Children based in Manila, Philippines.

The one-day event will use a double peoria format.

The peoria system allows a "handicap allowance" to be determined and then applied to each golfer's score. Before the competition, the tournament committee secretly selects six holes. These are usually two par 3's, two par 4's and two par 5's, and often one of each type per nine holes.

Groups then tee off and complete their rounds, playing stroke play and scoring in the normal fashion with one exception: double par is the maximum. Following completion of play, the six peoria holes are announced and each player totals their six secret holes. That total is tripled and course par is subtracted out. The resulting number is multiplied by 80 percent; this is the player's allowance. The allowance is subtracted from each player's gross score to determine their net peoria system score.

The Grand Masters Cup is open to both male and female golfers with the former teeing off from the white tee and the latter from the red. A shotgun tee-off is set for 12:30pm.

After the tournament, an awards presentation and $1-per-coupon raffle drawing with cocktails served will take place at Aqua Resort Club's Rey Lounge.

Meanwhile, Fil-Taga Golfers Association decided to hold its October Ace of the Month simultaneously with the fundraising tournament. Scores of Fil-Taga members joining the Grand Masters Cup will be compiled to determine the association's October Ace.

For more information or to register, contact Emon Lodge 179's Eli Buenaventura at 483-1671 or Fil-Taga's Mike Cruz at 483-7171, Gener Garcia at 287-1922 or Ted Malaran at 287-1227. Late entries will be honored without penalty on the morning of the tournament.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

SIP nips MDX, enters semis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense-Mobil moved a win away from clinching a finals seat in the 2010 United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Reinforced Basketball League after stunning the then undefeated MDX-Chow Queen, 97-94, during their playoff game last Thursday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Down with only seven players, SIP-Mobil coach Marvin Deocares told his depleted crew to just hang in there in the first three quarters and wait for the right opportunities in the fourth period to end MDX's bid for a perfect season.

Battling cramps and exhaustion, the Jun Estolas-led SIP followed the game plan and found the perfect time to catch the defending champion off guard.

The breaks of the game started to favor SIP when Pando Muleta hit a triple off a save from Estolas. Before Muleta's trey, SIP almost lost possession when Jorge De Guzman's kickoff pass went wide. Estolas chased the loose ball near the sideline and threw it back to the court with Muleta catching it and pulling up for a triple from the top key to give SIP a 92-91 lead, 1:13 left in the game.

A Kae Bernardo error on the fastbreak play returned possession to SIP. SIP then faltered in its first two offensive sets, but fought for the offensive rebound and was rewarded with its persistence when Estolas finally made a layup.

With SIP ahead by three, 94-91,

See SIP on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

SIP-Mobil's Jun Estolas elevates for a layup against MDX-Chow Queen defenders during their playoff game in the UFO caging last Thursday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Runners meet Marianas Coffee Trail Run challenge

They came, they saw, they conquered. Runners from the Northern Marianas, Guam, and Japan met the challenge of last Saturday's Marianas Coffee Trail Run new extended course in Saipan, with Miyachi Fujio of Japan finishing the 30K run first in two hours, 50 minutes, and 54 seconds.

Fujio led a pack of 26 runners in the grueling course which began at American Memorial Park at Micro Beach, ran a meandering course along Mt. Tapochau to its peak at 1,500 feet above sea level, and traversed the spine of Wireless Ridge and back up part of Mt. Tapochau before returning to the park. The first female finisher in the long course was Mamiko Berger of Saipan at 3:39:59.

"30K is one thing on a smooth roadway, but it's a totally different challenge running up this kind of elevation and through the jungle. Everyone who finished was a win-

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Tamio Nishhikido of Japan pushes to complete the last elevation leg of the 30K Marianas Coffee Trail Run before making his descent to the finish line. The run, an annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority, attracted 54 participants last Saturday.

$10K hole-in-one prizes in Emon Lodge's golf tourney

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Emon Lodge No. 179 will be holding the 2010 Grand Master's Golf Cup on Oct. 24 at the Kingfisher Golf Links with $10,000 awaiting winners of hole-in-one contests.

The hole-in-one prize will be split into two with $5,000 for hole No. 8 and the other $5,000 for hole No. 12.

For the Top 3 finishers in the fund-raising tournament, the first placer will get $700, $500 for runner-up, and $300 for third. Cash prizes of $200 to fourth place and $100 to fifth place will also be given. Trophies will be awarded to the Top 3 finishers.

Entrance fee is $90 and an optional $20 can be paid to gain entry to the closest to the pin side bet on four par-3 holes. The money to be raised

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New provision in Micro Games eligibility rules released

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Micronesian Games Council members and officials pose for a group photo after their meeting in Palau in August.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Athletes who have roots from Micronesian Games Association-member countries will be allowed to compete in the 2014 Micronesian Games.

The good news came after the Micronesian Games Council adopted a new provision on the eligibility rules during the MGC meeting in Palau in August.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White, tasked to compile the MGC Charter and its revisions after the Council meeting, forwarded the modified charter to MGA members yesterday and discussed the new provision on the eligibility rules during the NMASA meeting last Thursday.

Under the new provision, an athlete can participate in the Micronesian

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